

NATO approves military force in Kosovo

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO on Saturday cleared the way for the use of military force to help impose a peace deal in Kosovo, authorising alliance Secretary General Javier Solana to launch air strikes against Yugoslav targets if necessary. "The Council today has agreed in authorising [to order] air strikes against targets in Yugoslav territory," Solana said in a brief statement to reporters. "I will take this decision in the light of both parties' compliance with international commitments, with international requirements, including in particular assessment by the Contact Group..."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورنال تائمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي

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Four killed in helicopter crash in Switzerland

SCHWYZ (AFP) — Four people were killed when their helicopter crashed into a mountain in the Schwyz canton in central Switzerland, police said Saturday. The cause of the crash, which occurred late Friday afternoon, is not yet known, police said. The pilot and three passengers were on a mission to set off explosions to unleash avalanches, a common method of ensuring safety on the ski slopes of Hoch-Ybrig, police said. It was not known whether the avalanches had begun at the time of the crash.

Carlos denies Cuban connection

PARIS (AP) — The man known as Carlos the Jackal has denied allegations that Cuba was among his sponsors in the 1970s, saying such charges amounted to a "campaign of infamy" against Fidel Castro. In a letter to the daily Le Monde, parts of which were published Saturday, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez — once considered the world's most wanted man — said he "never received logistical help from Cuba." The denial was in response to written allegations by a former ranking Cuban interior ministry official filed with French judicial officials in support of a law suit charging Castro with international drug trafficking and other crimes.

Protesters clash over army exhibit

KIEL (AP) — Brawls erupted Saturday in the northern German city of Kiel between extreme rightists and leftists over an exhibition on World War II German army atrocities. Police did not have immediate information on the number of injuries or arrests. About 1,000 extreme rightists marched to protest the exhibition, which shows atrocities committed by ordinary German soldiers, as well as special SS units, in eastern Europe during the war. About 400 leftists pelted them with stones and clashed with police, who ordered the march route shortened to try to contain the violence.

Explosion kills six people in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Six people were killed, including a four-year-old child, by a bomb which Pakistani officials said was made in neighbouring India. The bomb was placed beneath the seat of a horse-drawn cart that was carrying eight passengers. All but one of the passengers died of their injuries. The eighth person is in critical condition, police said. Seven other people, who were standing nearby, also were injured in the explosion, they said. The bomb exploded as the horse-drawn cart crossed a bridge near Sialkot, some 60 kilometres north of the Punjab provincial capital of Lahore.

Eight hurt in N. Ireland attacks

BELFAST (AFP) — Eight people were injured and a house set on fire as sectarian violence, attributed to Catholic and Protestant paramilitary forces, continued to flare in Northern Ireland overnight. In the first incident, a group of armed men beat up two women and five men, all in their twenties, in a house at Newtownabbey early Saturday. They then set the house as well as a car, in which the young people had arrived, on fire. One of the victims was hospitalised. In a separate incident, a man in his thirties was shot and wounded when masked men broke into his home at Cookstown late Friday.

Prince Abdullah, Arafat discuss peace process developments

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — HRH Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, on Saturday received Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, who congratulated him on his appointment as Crown Prince and discussed with him the latest developments in the peace process.

The two leaders discussed bilateral ties and ways to cement them, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. It said Prince Abdullah stressed that Jordan will exert all possible efforts to "cooperate with the Palestinian brethren in all fields."

Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Omar Khatib said Arafat briefed the Crown Prince on the deadlock in the peace process with Israel.

"President Arafat briefed His Royal Highness on the Israeli obstinacy in implementing what has been agreed upon between the two sides in the Wye River agreement," Khatib said.

"He also briefed the Crown Prince on Israel's decision to freeze the agreement and all issues the two sides had agreed upon," the ambassador told the Jordan Times, referring to the



HRH Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, receives Palestinian President Yasser Arafat at Raghadan Palace in Amman on Saturday (AFP photo)

Oct. 23, 1998 agreement which His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. President Bill Clinton played a major role in concluding.

Israel implemented the first phase of the agreement, which called for further Israeli army redeployment from the West Bank, but later the government of Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu halted further implementation due to the upcoming Israeli elections.

Khatib said President Arafat briefed Prince Abdullah on Israel's refusal to allow the Gaza seaport to begin operations in accordance with the Wye River agreement.

He said Prince Abdullah and Arafat also discussed the

forthcoming tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Jordan, Egypt and Palestine, expected to convene in Amman.

The ambassador said no date has been fixed for the ministers' meeting, but added that the focus of discussion will be on the logjam in the peace process.

King completes course of treatment at Mayo

By Caroline Faraj

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday completed a course of chemotherapy and is scheduled to undergo a bone marrow transplant on Tuesday, Jordanian Ambassador to the U.S. Marwan Muasher said.

"The King completed Saturday a four-day course of chemotherapy, and he will undergo a bone marrow transplant on Tuesday, which is supposed to last for two days," Muasher told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

The King's private physician, Samir Faraj, yesterday said the King was in stable condition.

"His Majesty's health condition is stable, and the bone marrow transplant, due to last for two days, will take place on Tuesday, as part of the treatment plan," Faraj said.

On Friday Muasher told the Jordan Times that the King was scheduled to receive a course of chemotherapy as part of a

10-day treatment programme "intended to achieve a more successful remission."

King Hussein underwent six months of treatment at the Mayo Clinic for non-Hodgkins lymphoma before making a triumphant return to Jordan on Jan. 19, but his doctors' concerns over a recurrent fever and blood count abnormalities forced him to return last Tuesday to the U.S. for further medical attention.

When asked when doctors estimated the King's treatment would be completed, Muasher said: "The doctors' assessment of the King's condition is conducted on a daily basis."

The ambassador also described the King's general condition as better, and said: "The King is in constant contact with HRH Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent."

"The King was briefed by Crown Prince Abdullah about the present developments in Jordan, and he is giving his instructions and advice," he added.

King Hussein designated

his eldest son Prince Abdullah as heir to the Throne on Monday, replacing his uncle, HRH Prince Hassan, 51, who had been heir for more than three decades.

Abdullah, who turned 37 on Saturday, is serving as Regent in the King's absence.

The King had received a stem cell transplant following six courses of chemotherapy which began last July. The 63-year-old monarch announced at the end of that treatment that he had fully recovered. But when symptoms of fever and blood count abnormalities were indicated last week, his physicians said they were taking no chances and recommended that he return to the clinic.

King Hussein's non-Hodgkins lymphoma is his second bout with cancer in six years. He underwent surgery at the Mayo Clinic in 1992 to remove his left kidney and cancerous cells from his ureter.

In April 1998, surgeons at the Mayo Clinic removed a benign growth from his prostate.

Regent expresses appreciation for congratulatory messages IAF congratulates Crown Prince on designation as heir

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, Saturday thanked the Jordanian people for their good wishes and congratulations upon becoming heir to the Throne.

In a letter to the nation, the Crown Prince also voiced his deep appreciation and gratitude to the heads of state and senior officials as well as citizens of Arab and foreign countries who congratulated him on this occasion.

"I am pleased to send greetings to all members of the Jordanian family and to express deep pride in His Majesty King Hussein's clan, who have expressed their affection to the Monarch and the nation and vowed to uphold the sublime principles on which the homeland was founded and the great message to which Jordan has

dedicated itself to achieve," the Regent said.

Referring to the past few days during which thousands of well-wishers assembled to congratulate him, Prince Abdullah said: "You have overwhelmed me with your noble and true feelings by calling at Raghadan Palace from all parts of the country to express your sincere feelings and congratulations over the mission entrusted to me by His Majesty. You have proved to be worthy of the King's trust and have displayed unity, cohesion and affiliation to the dear homeland and its noble message of defending the nation's causes and its future generations."

"Wherever you might be in this country and elsewhere in the world, I send you my deep thanks and appreciation for the sincere affection and brotherly

and noble feelings, and I also express my deep gratitude and appreciation to the heads of state of the Arab and foreign countries and their senior officials who have expressed their congratulations to me," the Crown Prince said.

In his letter, Prince Abdullah implored God Almighty to help him serve Jordan and the Jordanian people under King Hussein's wise leadership.

Also Saturday, the Regent received a congratulatory cable from the secretary general of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), Abdul Latif Arabiyah, on his designation as Crown Prince.

The cable said: "On behalf of the members and leaders of the IAF, I hereby send you my sincere, heartfelt congratulations on the Royal trust and on your appointment as Crown Prince, praying to God the Almighty to

protect you and keep you for the betterment of this country and its people."

The Regent also received several representatives of Arab leaders, who congratulated the Prince on his designation as heir to the Throne, and inquired about His Majesty King Hussein's health. The Regent received Prince Abdul Aziz Ben Abdullah Al Saud, the son of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah and a Saudi royal court advisor, Omani court minister and Sultan Qaboos Ben Saeed's special envoy, Major General Ali Ben Majed Moutari, Sheikh Tamim Ben Khalifa, the son of Qatar's Emir Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, and Al Sa'idi Qadhafi, the son of Libyan President Muammar Qadhafi.

Prince Abdullah also received congratulatory cables on the occasion of his 37th birthday, which he celebrated Saturday. Messages were sent by Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh, Senate President Zaid Rifai, the president of the Judicial Council and Court of Cassation, Taher Hikmat, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mira'i Kaabneh, Royal Court Chief Jawad Anani, the director of the General Intelligence Department, Major General Samih Batlihi, Public Security Department Director General Major General Nasoub Muheideen, Chief Islamic Justice and the King's advisor for Islamic affairs Izzeddin Khatib Tamimi, Lower House Speaker Abdul Hadi Majali and Jordanian Businessmen Association President Hamdi Tabba.

Jordan's embassy in Kuwait expected to reopen next week

By Caroline Faraj

AMMAN — A Jordanian diplomat will leave for Kuwait today to prepare for the reopening of the Jordanian embassy there next week.

Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib is to visit Kuwait next Saturday at the invitation of his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, an official told the Jordan Times yesterday.

Nabil Talhoumi, the last ambassador to the Gulf emirate, is scheduled to leave for Kuwait today in order to prepare for the reopening of the embassy there, expected to take place during Khatib's visit.

The reopening of the embassy will put an end to a rift in diplomatic relations since ties were strained following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Khatib was quoted as saying that the decision for reopening the embassy, "which signals the strong ties between the two brotherly countries," came after a meeting here between HRH Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, and Kuwaiti Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al Khalid Al Sabah.

The move appears to be the latest in a series of gestures of support for the new heir to the Throne from Gulf states.

Crown Prince Abdullah, 37, is known to have close ties with young members of the ruling families in the Gulf. He made a

tour of several Gulf countries, except Kuwait, last October.

Earlier, Khatib told the Jordan Times that during his visit to Kuwait, "we will be discussing all files related to our brotherly relations, and ways and means of improving them for the benefit of our peoples."

Meanwhile, the families of eight Jordanian prisoners in Kuwait, have been urging the two governments to focus on their release.

During the last few years, the Kuwaiti government has released a number of Jordanian prisoners.

However, diplomatic sources at the Kuwaiti embassy in Amman said they expected that Kuwait will release the remaining prisoners on Kuwait's National Day, which falls on Feb. 25.

Talhoumi, 55, is the head of the Economics Department at the Foreign Ministry. He formerly served as Jordan's ambassador to Kuwait until the embassy was closed at the end of the Iraqi occupation.

During the Gulf crisis, Kuwait downgraded ties with Jordan after it accused Amman of supporting Iraq. But relations between Amman and Kuwait began to thaw in late 1995 when Jordan began to distance itself from Baghdad, calling on Iraq to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Arab interior ministers condemn 'all forms' of terrorism

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — Arab interior ministers on Saturday ended a two-day meeting with a strong denunciation of terrorism and a call on Arab states not to allow terrorists to take shelter in their territories.

The final communiqué of the conference, which was attended by 22 Arab ministers, also urged Arab states to refrain from extending any type of assistance to terrorists who are targeting not only Arab security but other countries as well.

"The Council of Arab Interior Ministers... strongly

denounces terrorism in all forms... and supports all efforts aimed at holding an international conference to combat terrorism," the communiqué said.

The council "reaffirms its commitment to fight terrorism as a part of the Arab Strategy to Combat Terrorism," signed in Cairo in April 1998, the statement said.

"We call upon all countries where terrorist groups take shelter to prevent them from using their territories or to benefit from their rules or to obtain assistance or arms, or practise any criminal acts or disseminate propaganda that endangers the security and safety of all countries," the statement said.

It noted that Arab states differentiate between terrorism and "the right of people to struggle against foreign aggression and occupation by all means, including armed struggle to liberate their [occupied] lands."

The last part of the communiqué referred to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Lebanese territories.

The conference, which was inaugurated by HRH Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent,

was scheduled to last for three days but participants, for unspecified reasons, shortened it to two days.

Saudi Interior Minister Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz, who met on Saturday with Prince Abdullah, told reporters that Arab states were determined to "activate" the anti-terrorism strategy in the coming few months after it is ratified by their respective states.

Only eight countries, namely Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Sudan, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, have so far ratified the agreement, which was signed

by all Arab states.

The Saudi minister attributed the delay in ratification to "technical reasons and laws of some Arab states."

The secretary general of the Council, Ahmad Salem, denied that the delay was due to "reservations" by some Arab states to the strategic accord.

"All Arab states are supporting the agreement. There is a consensus among Arab countries to uphold this phenomenon from our region," Salem told the press following the conference.

(Continued on page 2)

U.S. warplanes attack six sites in northern no-fly zone in Iraq

Agencies

U.S. PLANES flying from a base in southern Turkey attacked six air defence sites in northern Iraq on Saturday, the U.S. Air Force said.

The air strikes, which marked an escalation of attacks in the no-fly zone, began around 3 p.m. Iraqi time (1200 GMT) after Iraqi radar targeted the U.S. aircraft, according to statements from a joint Turkish-U.S. airbase at Incirlik, southern Turkey.

"Coalition aircraft were targeted by Iraqi radars near Mosul while conducting routine enforcement of the northern no-fly zone," the base said.

The aircraft, acting in self-defence, launched strikes on a radar site and its missile launchers, four anti-aircraft missile sites and a surface-to-air missile site in the Mosul area.

Damage to Iraqi forces was being assessed, the base said.

American and British warplanes have enforced the no-fly zone north of the 36th Parallel since the 1991 Gulf War to protect the Kurdish population there from attack by Iraqi government forces.

U.S. aircraft have launched a series of air strikes on Iraqi air defences in northern and southern Iraq in recent weeks.

An Iraqi military statement said Saturday's attacks had been carried out with 17 missiles or bombs.

A spokesman told the Iraqi News Agency that 12 formations of warplanes had entered Iraq from Turkey backed by an AWACS radar plane.

He said that allied fighter planes had also been in action in the southern no-fly zone after taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

He said that these had comprised 14 formations of warplanes, again with AWACS radar backing.

Those from Kuwait carried out 16 sorties and those from Saudi Arabia 20 sorties, he said, without giving

more details of their actions.

"The hostile planes fled back to the evil dens they came from," the spokesman said.

Iraq said on Saturday it had defused an unexploded cruise missile fired by U.S. planes at its northern oil-rich city of Kirkuk.

The Incirlik base was briefly put on a state of alert on Thursday on fears of an Iraqi missile attack, which proved to be unfounded. Earlier in January the United States moved a battery of Patriot missiles to Incirlik at Turkey's request.

(Continued on page 2)

French MPs condemn strikes

BAGHDAD (AP) — The head of a visiting French parliamentary delegation on Saturday condemned the U.S.-led air strikes on Iraq, saying they would only complicate efforts to resolve the crisis.

"Nothing justifies the American strikes on Iraq," MP Rosemary Bachelot-Narquin told the French parliament, the National Assembly, on the judicial front.

Bachelot-Narquin said the meeting was the first official contact between the French and the U.S. since the start of the Gulf War. During the war both sides expressed their opposition to the strikes. Bachelot-Narquin said the French MPs' delegation, including her, was planning to visit Iraq in the coming weeks, she said.

سكنا في النص

'Alleged Tunisian associate of Ben Laden held in Pakistan'

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistani authorities have arrested a Tunisian national suspected of being a close associate of Saudi dissident Osama Ben Laden, a newspaper reported Saturday.

Quoting official sources, Dawn newspaper from Karachi said a team of security agencies including the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) had been formed to interrogate the Tunisian, identified as Al Babour Habib.

Bahour was arrested at the Karachi airport as he arrived from London via Kuwait, the report said, adding the suspect planned to travel to Afghanistan to meet Ben Laden.

He presented at immigration a fake French passport bearing the name Mustapha Chemli, but documents and band-written letters in Arabic found in his luggage disclosed his real name, according to the report.

Ben Laden has been

indicted in the United States for allegedly masterminding last year's twin bombings in Tanzania and Kenya that killed more than 200 people.

Afghanistan's ruling Taleban militia has rejected the allegations against their "guest" and refused to expel him.

In August the United States launched cruise missile attacks on alleged training camps of Ben Laden in Afghanistan.

Iranian president set to visit Germany — report

BONN (AFP) — German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder is "delighted" at a planned visit by Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, spokesman Bodo Hombach was quoted Saturday as saying.

Chancellor Minister Hombach is set to travel to Tehran next week when he will hand over an invitation from Schröder for Khatami to visit Germany in the spring, the daily Die Welt reported.

Khatami's European trip is also expected to take in Italy and France.

While in Tehran, Hombach will seek to improve

economic and cultural ties, as well as pave the way for a Khatami visit, the paper said.

However the minister would not confirm that the Iranian president would receive a formal invitation.

Another point of concern for Germany, and Hombach, is the case of Helmut Hofer, German businessman who faces the death penalty in Iran.

Hofer was sentenced to death early last year for having an affair with a Muslim woman, not permitted under the laws of Iran's Islamic Republic.

Die Welt saw Hombach's

visit as a sign that the Hofer matter will be happily resolved.

Twenty years after the Islamic revolution, Iran has toned down its harsh rhetoric and shifted its goal from exporting its radical ideology to seeking more normal relations with the rest of the Muslim World.

It was not until Khatami's election in May 1997 that Iran managed to charm the outside world with his detente policies, trying to reintegrate the country into the world community.



Two masked members of the Hamas sham the way Palestinian policemen treat their prisoners on Saturday during a demonstration in the West Bank town of Nablus, to protest against the detention of Hamas members in Palestinian-controlled jails (AFP photo)

American public supports Palestinian state — poll

AMMAN (J.T.) — By a margin of more than two to one, American voters overwhelmingly support U.S. recognition of Palestinian statehood, according to a poll commissioned by the Arab American Institute (AAI) and conducted by Zogby International of Utica, New York, an AAI statement said.

The Jan. 28 poll surveyed 1,011 likely voters. When asked the question, "If the Palestinians declare an independent state, should the United States recognize it or not?" 54.5 per cent said that the United States should recognize a Palestinian state, while only 21.2 per cent said the United States should not, and 24.3 per cent were not sure. The poll margin of error is +/- 3.2 per cent.

While Americans support a Palestinian state by a huge margin, some con-

gressional leaders continue to propose legislation opposing Palestinian self-determination, the statement said.

The proposed resolution circulated by Matt Salmon (R-AZ) and Eliot Engel (D-NY) calls on the Clinton administration to unequivocally assert U.S. opposition to the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state.

Because the Palestinians have indicated that they would only make their declaration of statehood when the Oslo process expired, such language is uncalled-for, one-sided and in direct opposition to agreements brokered and signed by the United States. Congressional language that pressures one party or unilaterally adds new conditions to negotiated agreements only undercuts the administration authority to conduct foreign policy and its role

as honest broker.

Not only do Congress actions hamper the peace process, they fly in the face of U.S. public opinion. AAI President James J. Zogby stated, instead of trying to add new conditions to U.S. brokered agreements, Congress should support the administration position that all parties implement their obligations to the Wye and Oslo agreements so that this peace process can be concluded by May 4, 1999.

Instead of taking one side and applying pressure only to the Palestinians, Congress should listen to the views of their constituents who overwhelmingly support a fair and just solution to the Middle East peace process which includes security for Israel and a Palestinian state, Zogby added.

Arab interior ministers condemn 'all forms' of terrorism

(Continued from page 1)

"There is no reservation from any member to any article of the agreement, and the ratification of the treaty is nothing but a matter of time," he said.

He said a draft plan that would govern the extradition of criminal suspects among Arab states is under study by member states of the council.

"The final draft has not been finalized. It is a matter of time before we come up with the plan, which is aimed at preventing evil elements from traveling among Arab states and taking shelter in these countries," Salem told reporters.

"We are keen on extraditing criminals and on strengthening control measures on our borders in order to stem the illegal trafficking of weapons, ammunition and explosives that could be used for terrorist acts," he added.

Responding to whether or not the Arab ministers discussed complaints by some Arab countries that neighboring states are facilitating the smuggling of weapons and ammunition through their territories, Salem stressed, "There is a seriousness on the part of the Arab ministers, without exception, to fight this phenomenon."

"All members are concerned

for the security and stability of Arab states because the internal security of any member state is part of the overall Arab security," he said.

The final communiqué also urged Arab states to extend all facilities to Arab citizens wishing to obtain visas to travel among Arab countries.

The conference also approved a memorandum of understanding to intensify cooperation between the council and the Ottawa-based International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol).

The communiqué also called for extending assistance to the Palestinian National Authority

police and endorsed several other agreements related to terrorism, drug trafficking and security cooperation among member states.

Also Saturday, Prince Abdullah met with several of the Arab interior ministers, who expressed their appreciation to the Kingdom for hosting the conference.

Among those who met the Crown Prince were: Hussein Mohammad Harb of Yemen, Mohammad Ben Khalifah of Bahrain, Idrees Bashi of Morocco, Mohammad Badi of the UAE, Sheikh Mohammad Khalid Al Sabah of Kuwait, and Abdul Malik Salal of Algeria.

U.S. planes attack six sites in northern Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

In the first of Saturday's attacks, a U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle launched an AGM-130 missile at a radar site. Two F-15Es dropped two laser-guided bombs on missile launchers at the same radar site. Shortly after 3 p.m. Iraqi

officials have expressed concern about the rising level of conflict.

A Turkish newspaper on Saturday quoted President Suleyman Demirel as saying he had warned U.S. President Bill Clinton against the consequences of his administration's plans to support Iraqi opposition groups in a

bid to overthrow President Saddam Hussein, drawing a parallel with the Vietnam war.

"Let me tell you one thing — this business resembles Vietnam. I said this to President Bush and I said it to Clinton," Demirel was quoted as telling reporters informally at a cocktail party.

Iraq's parliament on Wednesday accused the Kuwaiti and Saudi governments of being agents of the United States and Britain, and urged Arabs to overthrow the two regimes.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

16:10 Cartoon — The Pink Panther
16:20 — The Pumpkin Patch
16:30 — Lift Off
17:00 — Doc. — Survival
17:30 — Vid Kids
18:00 — Le Grand Secret
19:00 — Le Journal
19:15 — French Programme
19:30 — News Headlines
19:35 Comedy — If Not For You
20:00 — French Programme
20:30 Drama — Walker, Texas Ranger
21:15 — Doc. — Eating and Health
21:30 — Behind the Scenes
22:00 — News in English
22:30 — Bitter Blood
23:10 Drama — Doogie Howser
23:59 — End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

05:07 — Fajr
06:26 — (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:49 — Dhuhr
14:46 — Asr
17:12 — Maghreb
18:31 — Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
4677366

Anglican Church Tel.
4624853/4624811.
St. Atram Syrian Orthodox
Church Tel. 4771751.
Amman International Church
Tel. 5865897

German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 5811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter
Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la
Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel.
4646138
Church of Presentation, Sweifeh
Tel. 5920146

The United Catholic Church
Tel. 4624757
The English-Language
Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel.
4892679
The Baptist Church Tel.
4633052
The Armenian Catholic
Church Tel. 4771331
The American Orthodox
Church Tel. 4775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology

will prevail with temperatures rising
slightly and winds southeasterly
to southwesterly light to moderate.
In Aqaba winds will be
northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 04/18
Aqaba 07/24
Deserts 01/19
Jordan Valley 08/23

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 16, Aqaba 22 Humidity
readings: Amman 27 per cent,
Aqaba 19 per cent.

Following are the temperatures
expected today in the following
areas:

Ajloun 05/13
Jerash 07/18
Um Qays 06/17
Madaba 05/18
Petra 06/18
Dead Sea 13/25

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 4885446
Dr. Arafat Ashbah 5602507
Dr. Ayman Muhaseb 4875748
Dr. Jamal Jharah 5347351

AMMAN:
Firas Pharmacy 5661912
Al Salam Pharmacy 4636730
Mayadah Pharmacy 5537004
Rukn Al Dawa Pharmacy 5536169

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammed Al Shari 02/710088
Fou'ad Pharmacy 02/275360

ZARQA:
Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein 09/985001
Palestine Pharmacy 09/983562

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 4637111
Civil Defence Department 5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 4621111 4637777
Fire Brigade 4617101
Blood Bank 4775121
Highway Police 5343402
Traffic Police 4896390
Public Security Dept. 4630321
Hotel Complaints 5605800
Price Complaints 5661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints 4897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 4787111

Telephone Information (directory
assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 0132
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 4633101
4633101

Jordan Television 4773111
Radio Jordan 4774111
Water Authority 5680100
J. Electricity Authority 5815615
Electric Power Co. 4636381
RJ Flight Information 44-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 44-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special
Surgery 5921199
The Islamic, Abdl 5666131/7
Hussein Medical Centre 5856856
Luzmila 4630195
Khalidi Maternity 4644281/6
Akileh Maternity 4642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362
Malhas, J. Amman 4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 5607071
Shmeisani Hospital 5607431
Jordan Hospital 5607530
University Hospital 5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667279
Al-Ahli, Abdali 56641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4777101/3
Al-Bashir 4775111/26
Army, Marka 4891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 5157100
Amal Hospital 5607155
Al Amal Cancer Centre 5353000

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09/900560
Ibn Sina Hospital 09/986731
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 09/990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital 02/275555
Roman Catholic Hospital 02/272275
Ibn Al Nafess Hospital 02/7101372, 02/7103101
Rosary Sisters Hospital 02/7102831, 02/7102011
Specialty Hospital 02/7103100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03/2940111

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT

This information is supplied by
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information
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International Airport Tel.
(44)53200-5, where it should
always be verified. Information on
other flights can be supplied on
phone 44 (52700). Information on
Royal Wings flights can be supplied
on phone 4875201-5

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:35 — Bangkok, Doha (RJ)
08:25 — Bombay (RJ)
08:35 — Jeddah (RJ)
08:50 — Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)

09:50 — Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
17:15 — New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:05 — Athens (RJ)
18:25 — Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:15 — Paris, Rome (RJ)
19:20 — London, Vienna (RJ)
22:15 — Frankfurt (RJ)
22:50 — Vienna (RJ)
23:59 — Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights
12:30 — Aden (TY)
14:35 — Istanbul (TK)
18:00 — Dubai, Damascus (EK)
18:40 — Beirut (ME)
18:45 — Kiev (GU)
19:05 — Paris (AF)
20:25 — Tel Aviv (LY)
20:40 — Cairo (MS)
22:25 — London, Damascus (BA)
23:35 — Amsterdam (KL)
23:55 — Lavaca (CY)
00:55 — Bucharest (RO)
02:00 — Vienna (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights
07:50 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA)
(RW)
10:30 Tel Aviv (arriving at QAIA)
(RW)
16:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka
Airport) (RW)
17:45 Haifa (arriving at QAIA)
(RW)
18:45 Tel Aviv (arriving at QAIA)
(RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:00 — Aqaba, Paris (RJ)
05:20 — Beirut (RJ)
11:00 — Rome, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:25 — Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:30 — Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15 — London (RJ)
12:15 — Athens (RJ)
12:40 — Aqaba, Vienna (RJ)
20:25 — Cairo (RJ)
20:30 — Jeddah (RJ)
20:35 — New Delhi (RJ)
20:45 — Damascus (RJ)
21:00 — Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
23:30 — Bangkok (RJ)
00:10 — Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
00:30 — Jeddah (RJ)

Other Flights
07:10 — Frankfurt (LH)
13:30 — Aden (TY)
15:35 — Istanbul (TK)
19:00 — Dubai (EK)
19:40 — Kiev (GU)
20:00 — Beirut (ME)
21:10 — Tel Aviv (LY)
21:40 — Cairo (MS)
00:35 — Amsterdam (KL)
01:55 — Bucharest (RO)
03:00 — Vienna (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights
08:15 Tel Aviv (arriving from
QAIA) (RW)
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Air-
port) (RW)
14:30 Haifa (from Marka Air-
port) (RW)
16:30 Tel Aviv (from Marka Air-
port) (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

Home
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Jordan

W h a

We thin
By Hind-Lara

AMMAN — The
United Nations
World Health
Organization (WHO)
has announced
that it will
launch a
campaign to
eradicate
smallpox from
the world.
The WHO
said that
smallpox is
the only
infectious
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world.

Brotherhood hails appointment of Crown Prince Abdullah, requests meeting to address political, economic issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Muslim Brotherhood has hailed His Majesty King Hussein's decision to appoint HRH Prince Abdullah, the Regent, as Crown Prince, and reiterated its allegiance to the Hashemite Throne.

"King Hussein has acted within his constitutional rights by changing the line of succession to the Throne, and we wish Crown Prince Abdullah all success," Abdul Majed Thneibat, the overall leader of the Brotherhood, was quoted as saying in the Arabic press on Saturday.

Thneibat, who paid tribute to HRH Prince Hassan for his service to the nation during more than three decades as Crown Prince, said he asked Prince Abdullah for a

meeting when he joined the thousands of Jordanians of all walks of life to congratulate the new Crown Prince at Raghadan Palace on Thursday.

Prince Abdullah, who has represented Jordan and the King in many missions abroad, especially dealing with security and military issues, and has long served behind the scenes, was appointed as Crown Prince last week.

"I hope a meeting can be arranged soon, so that we can explain our positions and give our suggestions," Thneibat was quoted as saying.

The Brotherhood stressed that neither its policies nor its educational, political, and charity activities will change.

The powerful movement, which was allowed

to work as a "charitable organisation" through the 1957-1989 martial laws and grew deep roots in Jordanian social fabric, has long campaigned for political reforms and fiercely opposed the 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

"There is a national Islamic need to review the country's policies, especially regarding relations with other Arab countries and the Zionists," Thneibat said.

"While we demand the abrogation of the Wadi Araba [peace] treaty [with Israel], we also ask the government that [the treaty] be immediately preempted and Zionist infiltration be stopped."

The Brotherhood's leader maintained in the interview with the Arabic press that the peace treaty

"created imbalance and frustration, which was manifested in a regression of public freedoms, rising unemployment, skyrocketing crime, and social, media, and moral corruption."

The Muslim Brotherhood reiterated its call for a comprehensive review in the political and economic spheres, emphasising the need to reactivate civil society institutions and enhance their role.

Thneibat highlighted the urgency of enacting a new elections law to guarantee fair and democratic elections and ensure the government's neutrality during all phases of the electoral process.

The Brotherhood's leader strongly opposed the dissolution of the current 13th Parliament and

the convening of early parliamentary elections — an idea recently floated in some opposition and government circles — before a more modern and democratic electoral law is drafted, debated, and endorsed.

"The Islamic movement has been targeted," Thneibat denounced, "with the precise objective of reducing its power and influence."

He criticised a new draft law dealing with Awqaf, which he said "will put all the workers of Islam under the umbrella of the Awqaf Ministry, thus narrowing the scope of their activities and reducing their work within rigid government regulations and bureaucracy."

Jordan starts trade talks in Baghdad, looks for joint venture opportunities

BAGHDAD — A Jordanian delegation started talks in Baghdad on Saturday on boosting trade between the two neighbouring countries.

"Iraq endeavours to expand and develop fields of economic and trade cooperation with Jordan," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh as saying in the meeting with the Jordanian team.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Halaqia said his delegation would

discuss how to encourage the establishment of joint companies and expand exports, INA said.

Iraq and Jordan agreed last year to build a \$350-million, 750-kms oil pipeline linking the Iraqi pumping station in Haditha northwest of Baghdad to Jordan's Zarqa oil refinery northeast of Amman.

INA quoted Saleh as saying Iraq wanted cooperation to go beyond agreements made so far.

Since the Gulf War over Kuwait, Iraq has been exporting more than

75,000 barrels of oil per day to Jordan, part of which is charged at market prices and the rest at undisclosed softer terms.

Jordan's oil purchases from Iraq are exempted from U.N. sanctions which ban Baghdad from exporting oil as punishment for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The United Nations has allowed Iraq since December 1996 to sell limited quantities of oil to buy food and medicine for Iraqis.

Jordan's sound foundations ensure continuity

By Randa Habib
Agence France Presse

AMMAN — Jordan, a country inextricably linked to its ruler King Hussein, has been built on a set of strong yet undeveloped institutions which experts believe will provide a firm base for the post-Hussein era.

King Hussein, who has ruled Jordan for more than 46 years "has built a real legal state over the years, based on a set of institutions with clearly-defined functions," said a former Jordanian official.

"Although these institutions have not been fully developed, they should provide a strong base for the development of Jordan," he said.

Jordan's Constitution — originally drafted in 1947, one year after the country gained its independence — grants the king extensive powers over the government but also provides for a clear "distribution of power" rather than absolute monarchy.

The king is charged with hiring and firing the prime minister and has to approve his choice of ministers, but the Constitution terms him "not politically responsible" and does not grant him unlimited powers.

In accordance with this principle, Royal Decrees must be initiated by the prime minister and interior minister.

Legislative power is also secured by the Constitution in a two-chamber parliament whose lower house has been democratically elected since regular elections began in 1989.

About a third of the 80 elected deputies represent the opposition, but party politics is still relatively unknown in Jordan, he said.

Although Palestinian refugees and their progeny make up a large proportion of the population, it is the large

'King Hussein has always wanted his country to reach a stage of political maturity that would allow him to create a constitutional monarchy'

traditional pro-monarchy east Jordanian families who occupy the majority of key posts in the country.

"A member of the king's entourage pointed out the practical reality of Jordanian politics."

"Unfortunately, although the constitution puts a lot of weight on the roles of the government and parliament, they have rarely played out their parts to the full," he said.

"Prime ministers have generally been paralysed, without the backing of an independent political force," he said.

But he said that whereas King Hussein's great charisma and political acumen have caused politicians to bow to what they believe to be his will, Crown Prince Abdullah may allow officials to take more initiatives when he becomes king.

"King Hussein has always wanted his country to reach a stage of political maturity that would allow him to create a constitutional monarchy after

the example of Great Britain" where the monarch has a mainly symbolic role, he said.

The army is also controlled by the monarch who serves as supreme commander and appoints loyal soldiers to all the top ranks. The armed forces however, are not allowed to vote in elections. The judiciary, meanwhile, has proved its independence in recent years, with several supreme court rulings overturning government decisions such as a restrictive amendment to the press law last year.

"In times of crisis, the state's institutions work together with the prime objective of securing the country's stability," former prime minister Taher Masi told AFP.

This was the case during the King's recent six month absence for cancer treatment in the United States, Masi said, and is expected to be the case in the future.

What's Going On

Films

"Le Boucher" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh on Monday Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
"The Godfather" (pt.II) at Books@Café, Jabal Amman at 8:30 p.m. (Tel. 4650458). (Part III will be screened on Monday Feb. 1 at 8:30 p.m.)

Lecture

"The Educational Status and the Future Challenges" (in Arabic) by Minister of Education Dr. Fawzi Gharaibeh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman on Monday Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Exhibitions

"Winter 1998" exhibition at the Arts Centre, Shmeisani (Tel. 5529610), until Feb. 14
Works by Mohammad Al Saifi at Books@Café, Jabal Amman, until Feb. 13 (Tel. 4650457).
"The Warm Winter" — works by several artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Uthaina (Tel. 5526932), until Feb. 1.
The Tenth Anniversary Exhibition of Contemporary Arab Artists at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (Tel. 4643251/2), until Feb. 25.

King congratulates JTV

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, currently undergoing chemotherapy at Mayo Clinic in the U.S., phoned Jordan Television to express appreciation of its Sports Magazine programme, wishing the programme continued success.

The King, who follows the Sports Magazine on JTV, Friday afternoon voiced satisfaction with its programmes which featured the contributions of HRH Crown Prince Abdullah, the

Regent, to sports and athletic events in the Kingdom and presented prominent sport events at local, regional and international levels.

Prince Abdullah is chairing a special committee supervising the preparations for the 9th Arab Games due to be held in Amman this summer.

The King wished Jordanian athletes success in their endeavours and further efforts towards improvements and achievements.

UNMAS endorses Jordan's demining efforts

'We think that the standards maintained by the Royal Corps of Engineers here are exceptional' — Fowler

By Hind-Lara Mango

AMMAN — The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) concluded a one-week fact-finding mission in Jordan Saturday to assess humanitarian and socio-economic threats posed by the country's estimated 216,000 landmines.

"In our appraisal we gave priority to the socio-economic impact of landmines [in Jordan] as they directly affect the country's agriculture and tourism industries, which are two main currency generators for the economy," said Mary Fowler, UNMAS Deputy Chief and Policy Adviser.

The five-member UNMAS team represents a spectrum of U.N. organizations including the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF).

"The issue of landmines

is multi-faced and has implications concerning health, development, economy, and so forth," said Jorgen Lissner, UNDP resident coordinator in Amman. "This is why this mission is composed of a wide range of representatives."

At a press conference Saturday, the U.N. team said that during their visits with officials, they found that Jordan is "taking demining very seriously and was working hard to clear the Jordan Valley of these deadly weapons."

The team praised Her Majesty Queen Noor's efforts and her commitment to the landmine issue.

"Less attention is paid to these weapons of mass destruction... these indiscriminate killers constitute one of the greatest public health hazards of the late twentieth century, a modern man-made epidemic," the Queen said during the first Middle East Conference on Land-

mine Injury and Rehabilitation which was hosted in Jordan in July. During the conference, Queen Noor announced that Jordan would become a signatory of the Ottawa Treaty that bans the use, manufacture, stockpiling and sale of anti-personnel mines and demands their destruction. Jordan signed the convention in November, and UNMAS commended Jordan's ratification of the convention.

Under the provisions of the Mine Ban Treaty, Jordan has 180 days to compile a report for the United Nations secretary general that includes information on its national implementation of demining measures, the total number of all stockpiled AP mines and their location.

The first meeting of States Parties is to take place in May in Mozambique.

Since January, 60 countries, out of 185 member states have ratified the treaty.

"This is the fastest entry into force of any treaty in history and it reflects how governments and civil society have come together to support this," Fowler said.

The demining programme in the Jordan Valley has cleared 146 minefields, freeing up 3,100 acres of land for cultivation, mineral excavation and tourism. Military officials say the landmines were planted during the Arab-Israeli wars and are found along Jordan's borders with Syria and Israel. Most are located in highly fertile agricultural land; the threat they pose has rendered the land useless by the threat of these mines.

Bethany, the Baptism site of Christ, currently being prepared for the arrival of thousands of tourists at the turn of the century, has also been cleared of mines.

Walid Hayek had 1,200 dunums of fruit trees in the Jordan Valley. In 1975

he unknowingly stepped on a landmine that blew off his left foot.

"I had no idea that my land had been planted with landmines," he told the Jordan Times.

Hayek cannot cultivate his land, and today is waiting patiently for the military to step in to clear his land.

Since 1948, approximately 400 people in Jordan have fallen victim to landmines; 88 have died.

The Royal Corps of Engineers has set the year 2000 as the year the Jordan Valley will be landmine free.

"I don't think the number of mines is relevant, but rather where the mines are located," said Fowler to the Jordan Times.

She added that even though minefields in Jordan are quite clearly defined and the location of landmines is well-known, mines are situated in areas where the population tends to go.

Ibrahim Waradat was ten

years old when he fell victim to a deadly mine while playing in his home town of Ramtha, near the Jordanian-Syrian border. Child's curiosity drove him to pick up a round metal "box."

"I tried hard to open it, but when it wouldn't I hit it with a rock. It exploded," said the 12-year-old boy. Ibrahim lost his left hand, four of his right fingers, his left eye and part of his vision in his right eye.

Tehnaz Dastoor, UNICEF landmine focal point coordinator and part of the UNMAS mission, said more emphasis should be given to promoting landmine awareness in mined areas.

"As landmines in Jordan are not scattered, and their location is known," she said, "we believe that landmine awareness should be in areas infested with mines and should target that particular population."

Landmines in Jordan sometimes are transferred to populated areas by floods, by animals, such as foxes, that dig up mines and carry them to other areas, or by children or adults who remove signs delineating mine fields.

"Accidents occur when people are not informed about mines and don't know that certain areas are a liability, and when children unknowingly pick landmines up and start playing with them," said Dastoor.

"We think that the standards maintained by the Royal Corps of Engineers here are exceptional," added Fowler. "The fact that they aim for 100 per cent clearance is quite extraordinary."

She recommended that Jordan's professional capacity in mine clearance be used to assist neighbouring countries.

The cost of clearing a three-dollar AP mine can reach \$1,200. International figures indicate that one person falls victim to AP

mines every 20 minutes. Jordan receives technical and financial assistance in sweeping its mines from countries such as the United States, Canada, Germany and Norway.

"We will be speaking to donors. We have already spoken to some of them here, but we also will try to encourage bilateral assistance in the way of equipment," Fowler said.

Based on this visit, UNMAS will compile a report with recommendations for the implementation of demining programmes in Jordan, a copy of which will be forwarded to the Mine Action Support Group.

"They are donors and we will make sure that they are aware of our findings and recommendations," Fowler said.

Recommendations encompass an assessment and observations of the landmine situation here, Fowler said.

Over 100 Israeli Arabs rushed to Fairouz's sister, Huda — who sat amidst the crowd — to shake hands with her or seek her autograph.

Organisers rejected complaints made by many members of the audience who had to scramble to get in through crowded gates and then to dissuade people to move from seats originally allocated to them.

"This is not true," said Jamal Miri, the university's marketing manager when asked about popular complaints over unprofessional organisation and lack of order.

"Fairouz and her manager even indicated that these two concerts were among the best ever in terms of organisation and interaction between the singer and the crowd," he told the Jordan Times.

They also had to wait longer than an hour until Fairouz was able to start the show, during which she appeared in five different long elegant robes with matching hair styles.

The Fairouz concerts, timed to coincide with His Majesty King Hussein's brief return to Jordan last week after receiving six months of chemotherapy treatment in a U.S. clinic, are part of a year-long plan of activities at the Arena Hall, among the most advanced sports facility in the region.

Fairouz left Amman on Saturday with the Al Hussein medal, bestowed on her by King Hussein, for distinguished performance and appreciation of her efforts to upgrade Arab arts. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah presented her with the medal.

BRIEF

from hospi

President Bill Clinton called Saturday for a new, \$14 million initiative to close the gap between men's and women's wages, and new legislation to enforce equal pay rights.

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Clinton calls for end to gender wage gap

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton called Saturday for a new, \$14 million initiative to close the gap between men's and women's wages, and new legislation to enforce equal pay rights.

"When a woman is denied equal pay, it doesn't just hurt her," Clinton said in his weekly radio address. "It hurts her family, and that hurts America."

Last summer, the president's Council of Economic Advisers reported that women earn about 75 cents for every dollar a man earns — an improvement from the 58 cents on the dollar that women earned when President Kennedy signed the 1964 Equal Pay Act.

"We can be proud of this progress, but 75 cents on the dollar is still only three-quarters of the way there, and Americans can't be satisfied until we're all the way there," Clinton said.

His \$14 million proposal, part of the massive fiscal 2000 budget he will submit to Congress Monday, would: — Triple the number of enforcement workers at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

— Provide technical assistance to employers on how to comply with equal pay laws.

Kosovo conference to see intensive talks; outcome uncertain

LONDON (AFP) — The Kosovo peace conference due to open on Feb. 6 in Rambouillet near Paris, will combine direct talks and mediation by a trio of diplomats, with the foreign ministers of six countries on hand to intervene in case the talks hit deadlock.

The talks between the Yugoslav authorities and leaders of the ethnic Albanian majority in the province, will be led on a day to day basis by U.S. envoy Christopher Hill, the European Union's Kosovo envoy Wolfgang Petritsch and Russian official Igor Magorsky.

"Rambouillet will be a combination of meeting together and proximity talks," senior U.S. officials and diplomats said.

The 14th century Rambouillet castle, an official residence of French presidents, was the venue for the first summit of the Group of Seven major industrial powers in November 1975.

According to one U.S. diplomat, the French and British foreign ministers, respectively Hubert Vedrine and Robin Cook, would be "honorary chairmen" of the conference. They would be called upon, along with their peers from the other Contact Group countries to lay on the pressure if the talks became bogged down.

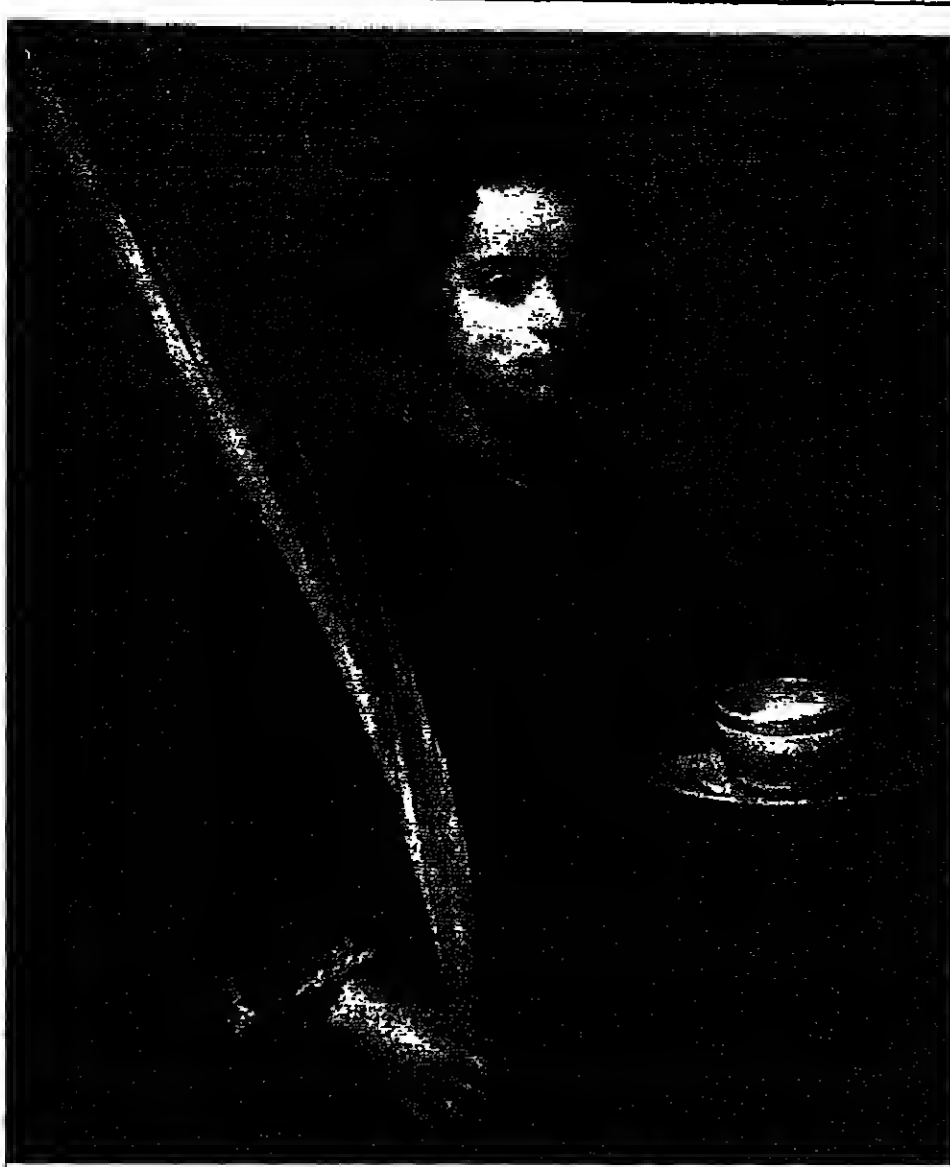
The six Contact Group countries — United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Russia — meeting Friday in London, issued an ultimatum to the warring sides in Kosovo to reach a settlement within 21 days or face outside military intervention.

U.S. officials said Washington was expecting the moderate Kosovar leader Ibrahim Rugova to "play a leading role" in the search for a settlement to the separatist conflict which erupted in the south-eastern province early last year.

Rugova has already said he will attend the conference. The big question is whether the Kosovo Liberation Army, which is fighting for independence from Belgrade, will also send representatives.

"There is not one KLA there are a lot of them... We are not going to let the absence of one or another faction spoil it," a U.S. diplomat said.

U.S. and British officials believe it is possible to go ahead without the KLA even though a peace accord which did not include the rebel army, would have little chance of holding for



'Santa Rufina' by the Spanish master Diego de Silva y Velazquez, shown here, sold for over \$8.9 million at auction at Christie's in New York Friday, setting a record for the artist and for Spanish Old Masters. The painting, which dates to 1632-1634, was bought by a London buyer bidding by telephone (Reuters photo)

Military expert issues warning over Kosovo air strike threat

LONDON (AFP) — A military expert warned here Saturday that the use of air strikes to punish the warring sides in Kosovo would not be effective without the deployment of ground troops.

The warning comes after the six-nation Contact Group Friday gave Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and Kosovo's ethnic Albanian leaders up to 21 days to restore peace in the province, or face NATO intervention.

Colonel Mike Dewar of the International Institute of Strategic Studies told the BBC: "The international community is in a very complicated situation if they are going to use some sort of punishment if people refuse to talk."

He said: "Punishing Mr. Milosevic is relatively straightforward, but how do you make your point against the Kosovars? Do you put troops on the ground to try and prevent arms getting through across the Albanian border?"

"It is doubtful whether the allies are prepared to do that at this stage, you would need a very large number of troops," Dewar said.

"Air power against people creeping across mountains using donkeys to take arms over the border would be totally ineffective. So the sanctions which are threatened may not be effective."

The Contact Group — Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and the United States — Friday set a deadline of Feb. 6 for Belgrade and separatist ethnic Albanians to start peace talks at Rambouillet, near Paris.

The group also imposed a deadline of a maximum 21 days for the two sides to reach a peace settlement.

The U.N. Security Council formally backed the ultimatum.

In the face of Russian opposition to the use of force, neither the Contact Group nor the Security Council mentioned the threat of air strikes.

However, U.S. President Bill Clinton made it clear the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was prepared to use force if the two sides did not reach a deal.

Violence has escalated in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo in recent weeks in the wake of fresh massacres, including attacks on civilians.

Milosevic sent troops and heavily-armed special police units into Kosovo in February to try to crush an independence drive by the province's ethnic Albanian majority.

Rights group reports five more dissident arrests in China

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese authorities have detained at least five democracy campaigners in recent days as they intensify efforts to crush dissent, a rights group reported Saturday.

The detentions mainly involved members of the China Democracy Party, the focus of a two-month-old campaign by the ruling Communist Party to ensure order ahead of the 10th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square democracy movement.

A Shanghai-based Democracy Party member, Dai Xuezhong, was taken from his home Saturday morning, hours before he had planned to host a "simple" lunch for about 20 dissident colleagues, the Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said.

It said police were "very nervous" and had warned the others not to go to Dai's home for lunch. Another of the group, Li Guotao, was detained Friday evening and released Saturday afternoon, it said.

The Hong-based group said Fu Shengping, elder brother of exiled dissident Fu Shengqi, was detained by police Tuesday and had not yet been released. No reason for the detention was given.

Meanwhile, police in other cities had detained two other dissidents, both of whom have since been released, the report said.

It said a member of the China Democracy Party living in Xi'an in central Shanxi province, Li Zhiming, was detained Friday and released after 20 hours with a warning not to travel elsewhere to meet with other members of the party.

He Bawei, an environmental activist was held by police in central Henan province for 12 hours last week, the report said.

On his release, police searched his home and confiscated his household registration card, it said.

The democracy demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square and in dozens of other cities in 1989 marked the largest challenge to Communist Party rule since economic reforms began in the late 1970s. Chinese leaders are loathe to see the anniversary of the protests become rallying points and every year order stepped up police action against dissidents.

China's parliament will debate constitutional amendments

BEIJING (AFP) — China's parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC) will hold its second full annual session in Beijing on March 5, to examine amendments to the constitution and a government work report, official media reported Saturday.

The decision was passed on the second day of a meeting of the NPC Standing Committee. Nearly 3,000 deputies are expected to attend, Xinhua news agency reported.

The NPC will debate an amendment to the country's constitution related to the recognition of private property rights, according to a Chinese official source.

"Private property rights will be one of the most important constitutional amendments," a Chinese official told AFP.

"But it still needs to be discussed by National People's Congress (NPC) delegates," he said.

Xinhua said another amendment would put the theory of late patriarch Deng Xiaoping into the constitution to enshrine his pro-market philosophy in law, referred to as "a socialist market economy".

The phrase "is currently" in the sentence "China is currently in the primary stage of socialism" would be changed to "... will be over a long period of time ...," it said. The NPC's sister assembly, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) has announced it will convene on March 3.

Also on the agenda were examining the implementation of the 1998 plan for economic and social development, and ratifying the 1999 version, Xinhua said.

Deputies would also look at national and local budgets for 1998 and approve the national budget for 1999. A draft contract law would also be on the table, the agency said.

According to the constitution, revisions must be proposed in the full session of the NPC by more than one fifth of parliamentary deputies or the NPC Standing Committee and must be adopted by more than two thirds of legislators.

Since the founding of Communist China in 1949, the NPC has promulgated four constitutions in 1954, 1975, 1978 and 1982. The existing 1982 Constitution, which has been amended twice in 1988 and 1993, stipulated that "the People's Republic of China is a socialist state under the people's democratic dictatorship led by the working class and based on the alliance of workers and peasants."

Four die in house fire in France

MORLAIX, France (AFP) — Four people died and three were injured, two of them seriously, in a fire Saturday in an apartment block in this northwestern French town, firemen said. Firemen continued to search the dilapidated building which was occupied by squatters and is due for demolition.

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What next?

A LEADING Israeli daily newspaper disclosed recently what we been suspecting all along: Israel is developing a live small pox virus as part of its new generation in its biological weapons programme. An earlier report spoke of another Israeli biological weapon in the making which targets certain ethnic groups of people. God knows what other biological and chemical weapons Israel is developing clandestinely over and above its well-known nuclear capability.

Of course neither Washington nor London, Paris or even Moscow are sounding the alarm about these Israeli efforts to expand the horizons of its weapons of mass destruction. This ominous silence is taking place against the backdrop of recent warnings by U.S. President Bill Clinton against the proliferation of biological weapons in particular and the determined efforts to rid Iraq of its mass destruction arsenals.

It is hard to explain this hypocrisy and practice of double standards in the conduct of international affairs. The Arabs will continue to be haunted with the question of why whatever Israel does or develops or possesses is all right as rain as far as the U.S. and its allies are concerned, but not a single Arab country is allowed to develop an even modest means of deterrence to a genuine Israeli threat. His Majesty King Hussein spoke of the mushrooming dangers of biological weapons a few days ago after his return from the U.S. and warned about the laxity of the international community in putting in place an effective machinery to prevent and reverse the tide of the amassing of biological and chemical weapons.

We in Jordan have a stake in what Israel develops and acquires in terms of weapons of mass destruction. The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty does not give Israel licence to possess any form of mass destruction weapons much less a new breed of biological bombs that target Arabs in particular. We view this tendency on the part of Israel to develop an ethnic-oriented bomb as a racist move fraught with unlimited dangers on all fronts. Jordan is duty-bound to make strong representations to Israel about its military programmes since they pose a real threat to us. Israel must not and cannot take us for granted simply because we have a peace treaty. A peace treaty cuts both ways, and Israel has yet to respect its end of the bargain where it counts most.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Dustour's editorial said Amman's hosting of the 16th Arab Interior Minister's Meeting, coincides with concerns about His Majesty King Hussein's health and his designation of HRH Abdullah, as Crown Prince, and Regent. Prince Abdullah stressed the King's efforts to achieve peace and security in order to get a better future when he opened the meeting, and emphasised King Hussein's efforts to preserve the reputation of Islam and Muslims. The Prince gave a great deal of concern to terrorism and narcotics trafficking, praising the Arab ministers' efforts to establish a comprehensive strategy to combat the two problems, which threaten the Arab Nation's security, stability and future. The ministers' speeches reflect Jordan's respected position regionally and internationally, thanks to the Hashemite leadership.

Al Dustour's Yaser Za'atreh said people who support the idea that Arab and international stands are surrendering to U.S. policy serve to further encourage the U.S. position regarding the Iraqi crisis. Such supporters are, in fact, promoting despair not only for Iraq, but the entire Arab Nation, and this is the most dangerous thing that could occur. Za'atreh added. If Arab and international opinion were in harmony with the U.S., what would be the need for U.S. Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright to tour Moscow, Cairo, Riyadh, Amman and Paris, the writer asked. The journey aims to remove the effects of the recent aggression on Iraq and ease reactions to it, said Za'atreh, who added that internationally, Washington feels the pressure of the Russian, French and Chinese stands, which have issued strong disagreements with the U.S. Although the Arab situation is generally weak, it does not surrender to nor is it in harmony with that of the U.S., according to the writer. Za'atreh added it is not logical to claim that Washington was satisfied with the results of Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Why Jordan supports a Palestinian state

THE AVAILABLE set of information, and the prevailing circumstances point to the fact that a Palestinian state is, without doubt, in the offing. The declaration of Palestinian independence may take place on May 4, as originally envisaged, but it may be delayed for some time due to American-Egyptian pressures, or in return for American and European guarantees and assurances. However, the project itself is not reversible and, barring unforeseen surprises, will see the light before the turn of the century.

When a Palestinian state is finally declared in the West Bank and Gaza, by virtue of the United Nations 1947 partition resolution which called for two states, it will be a small and poor country, but it will find around 40 other countries which are smaller in land mass and population. It will also be ranked second, after Israel, in terms of how much foreign aid re-

lative to the size of its population it will receive.

The Palestinian state will enjoy a political clout and play a role much larger than its size, for two reasons: the history of the Palestinian cause and struggle which has earned the respect of the world on one hand, and the fact that there are sizeable Palestinian demographic extensions in several key countries such as Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the Gulf states, and the United States.

Israeli leaders who object to the Palestinian state would like the world to believe that Jordan is suspicious and rejects the project, because a Palestinian state may pose a risk to Jordan. Jordanian officials have repeatedly denied such claims. The official position of Jordan is in full support of the idea of establishing a Palestinian state, and is ready to formally recognise it immediately. As a matter of fact, Palestine already a

full-fledged embassy in Amman flying the Palestinian flag and accorded full diplomatic status.

However, the government of Jordan prefers to see that the emergence of the Palestinian state comes about through negotiations rather than after a unilateral declaration, which may lead to a conflict. The negotiation option looks feasible, because a Palestinian state is acceptable to the majority of the Israelis as public opinion polls have shown. There is no reason to opt for a course of action that may lead to an uneven conflict with the Israelis as long as the diplomatic option is open.

Admittedly the emergence of an independent Palestinian state will have serious consequences for Jordan, but most of them are positive. The mere existence of an independent Palestinian state, together with the right of return to that state will solve a sensitive problem in Jordan, namely effec-

Sunday's Economic Pulse



Dr. Fahed Fanek

tive dual nationality, of the Palestinians of Jordan, who will have the right, for the first time to make a crucial choice. They, as individuals, will have to choose between full and final Jordanian citizenship, to be Palestinians residing in Jordan or be willing to return to Palestine. Observers

believe that the majority will take the first option.

On the other hand, the establishment of a Palestinian state will put an end to the idea of making Jordan a substitute homeland for the Palestinians. It will be abundantly clear thereafter, that Jordan is Jordan and Palestine is Palestine, and cards can not be mixed up as some Israeli leaders have been trying in vain to do for the past three decades.

Jordan will obviously be the natural gateway to the Arab World for the Palestinian people, providing valuable strategic depth for the nascent state, otherwise surrounded by Israel. Therefore any Palestinian regime will be friendly to Jordan and interested in maintaining the best relations with Jordan under all circumstances. The two states will develop excellent political relations along with the strongest of economic and cultural ties.



The Republicans have already lost a culture war of their own making

By Andrew Marshall

IT LOOKS as if, after 12 long months, the greatest show on earth — though maybe not the trial of the century — is drawing to a close. As Dale Bumpers, the former Arkansas Senator, spoke on Thursday, there was a strange feeling in Washington, as though a wind were blowing through the city, or a monsoon were breaking. The sense of an impending end was palpable; the new age of After Monica. Maybe not today, or this week, but soon, the impeachment trial of Bill Clinton will come to an end, either with dismissal or his acquittal.

It has been a bizarre year: one of fascination and compulsion at times; of deep tedium and perplexity at others. But the lasting question, and the least satisfying element of the whole thing, is: what is it all about? What is it all for?

For the President's supporters, it is a right-wing conspiracy, a partisan attempt to bring down a great man and reverse the electorate's choice. For his opponents, it is about the rule of law, the Constitution and the crimes of a man who should have resigned months ago if he had any honour. These competing claims just do not meet in the middle in any way. They are what social scientists call incommensurable: they reflect two different world views and sets of moral, political and legal assumptions that just don't match up.

One way of looking at the significance of the whole affair is just this: that what has happened is a visible manifestation of the great kulturkampf between two American value systems, the famous "Culture Wars". This argument holds that since the Sixties, the left-leaning, liberal, secular, modernising tide in America has competed against the traditional, religious, conservative view. Clinton clearly represents the former for most people, while the other side has been led by people like Kenneth Starr, Henry Hyde and Trent Lott, unbending advocates of law and morality (in public, at

least).

The right will argue that After Monica, chaos is come again, and the dominance of White Anglo-Saxon Protestant ways is over. This is over-egging it. Free love is unlikely to break out in the streets of middle America. Cannabis will not be smoked in public buildings (nothing, in fact, will be smoked in public buildings, bars or restaurants below a certain size, for the foreseeable future). The two main candidates for high office in 2000 will most likely be two impeccable Wasps: George Walker Bush and Albert Gore.

It takes a bit of stretching to see the events of the last year as constituting a Rubicon. The nation as a whole has been far from riveted. But to some extent, that is the point. For at least two decades, the right — disproportionately Southern and Western, white and Baptist — has been politically dominant, whatever was going on in the streets of America. Conservatives began their ascent in the Sixties, as the white majority rejected what it saw as the Democrats' shift to the left. They had money, ideology and political dominance on their side. Although the nation changed, Washington, to a remarkable degree, did not.

The hold that the conservative right had on political debate has been broken, in the last year, by its inept handling of the debates in Congress, by the internal wars within the Republican Party, and by its appalling grasp of public opinion. In many ways, the conflict has looked rather like the depiction of the English Civil War in 1666 And All That: the Clintonites, like the Cavaliers, are Wrong but Romantic, whereas the Republicans are Right but Repulsive.

I do not think that the impeachment of Bill Clinton is the culminating battle of a great social shift in the U.S. and the end of the fight over values; I think it is the beginning of another political change: the rewriting of the Republican Party, which has come badly unbanged. The party represents a shard of white,

'Free love is unlikely to break out in the streets of middle America. Cannabis will not be smoked in public buildings'

Southern, conservative opinion that is a minority in America, and has been for decades. If the Republicans identify that, and that alone, with righteousness, values and morality, it will make a historic mistake. If there has been a culture war for the last year, it has been mainly because the Republicans have forced one — and they have lost. They cannot blame the moral malaise or the Sixties for that — they can only blame themselves.

Most Americans find themselves somewhere in between the two great world views, and are not ready to be dragged into a war. To the astonishment of the pollsters and politicians, they express views of some complexity instead of stark ideological polarisation, as they might have done 20 years ago. And so they have turned off, which is what, in a few weeks, we shall all be able to do — with some relief, but a little nostalgia.

— The Guardian

LETTERS

Best wishes

To the Editor:

WE, FILIPINO residents/guest workers in the benevolent Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, wish to add our voices in congratulating His Majesty King Hussein, HRH Crown Prince Abdullah, and Prince Hassan, for the very smooth and peaceful handover of responsibilities, which is testimony to the political stability of the country.

We also wish to add our fervent prayers for their personal well-being, most specially His Majesty, for the success of their respective endeavours, and the peace and order and prosperity of Jordan and the Jordanian people to which we have everlasting attachment and love.

The Filipino Community in Jordan

For a better world

To His Majesty:

I AM sending this because, like His Majesty King Hussein, I too was once in a hospital. Over fifteen years ago I was diagnosed with cancerous brain tumour, a life-threatening illness. I was faced with death and was left to contemplate the nature of things. Only by the grace of God am I here to write this. In the time that has passed, I have learned to be more aware of how we, as individuals, impact the history of mankind.

I believe His Majesty King Hussein has done much to help the world. I believe he stands for peace. I believe he understands that even though the world is made up of different people, different faiths and different cultures, we can all live together in peace. I believe he has done all that is within his power to promote this belief. That is why I take the time to write this, to thank him, and to ask that you, the people of Jordan, continue to support his efforts toward peace.

We may call our God by different names. We may worship our God in different ways. Nevertheless, we believe in God. No matter the politics of our day, our God remains. This is the basis for mutual understanding. An understanding that may very well hold the key to true peace.

The people of Jordan and the people of the United States are not all that different. We are born, we grow, we love, we marry, we have children, we work and we die. And all through the process, we try to carry on our lives and work to insure that the life of our children and family will be better than the life we have led. I believe we can best serve this purpose by working together toward world peace.

One day, god willing, I will have the opportunity to visit your country. I can only hope that your King is there to share with me his hope for peace.

God bless His Majesty King Hussein and the people of Jordan.

Paul Swette,
 Bentonville, Arkansas
 U.S.

Pursue a positive image

To the Editor:

I must agree with the majority of Arab women, that the TWO shows that were aired in the U.S. in regard to "Honour Killings" was not only inappropriate at the time of airing, but the content in itself was most damaging to the country of Jordan. People here in the U.S. have been successfully brainwashed to a certain extent, and have allowed the media to poison their minds. I am speaking not as an Arab but as an American. I have travelled to the Middle East, and have not only seen, but felt, at first hand, the racist wrath of Israel. It is ironic that the U.S. as a nation will not allow prayer in their schools but supports a nation who actually believes God is their landlord.

The two airings of "Honour Killings" only added salt to the wounds and allowed for the further poisoning of the American mind. It is only logical that the masses who are absorbing the media, will in time develop negative attitudes towards a particular group. If the Arabs continue to allow such negative propaganda on such a large platform, they will lose! The Arabs have to take lessons from their cousins — speak out, defend, uphold and pursue a more positive image through whatever platform available (with the exception of violence) in order to fight back and gain respect. Leave culture and religion out of the issue and pursue a more humanitarian approach, it's the 90s!

Robin Mufti,
 Chicago
 U.S.

Children hold the key

To the Editor:

I am a retired teacher and could not agree more with Mohammad Abu Jaber (LETTERS Jan 28-29). If children are our salvation we must teach them, if we are to live peaceably and in harmony, that we are all brothers and sisters.

Victor C. Bush,
 Montreal

Features

Russia smarting from loss of kudos

By James Meek

WHEN RUSSIA'S acting leader, Yevgeny Primakov, met his old friend Madeleine Albright, the U.S. secretary of state, in Moscow last week, nothing about the encounter suggested a sea change in the wary, cordial, occasionally petulant relationship that has existed between the two former cold war adversaries since the Soviet Union collapsed. But the change is real. Behind the formal statements of mutual respect, Moscow is reeling from the realisation that the U.S. no longer considers Russia a mature member of the big-power community.

Russian commentators pounced on

the fact that in his State of the Union address two weeks ago, President Bill Clinton mentioned Russia only as a dangerous storehouse of hadly maintained nuclear weapons.

The Communist Daily newspaper said Mr Clinton had effectively announced a new U.S. policy towards Russia: not support, but neutralisation. "Russia is now almost officially declared to be 'Upper Volta with rockets'."

But while in the cold war years this was simply a propaganda cliché, it is now treated as reality, necessitating concrete actions," the paper said.

Sergei Rogov, the head of Moscow's U.S. and Canada Institute, noted how the official U.S. terms for

relations with Russia have changed from "strategic partnership" to "pragmatic partnership" to "realistic partnership". Now, he said, the talk was of plain realism — the partnership had gone.

In the past two months Washington has issued a stream of policy challenges to Moscow — bombing Iraq, threatening to bomb Serbia, trying to rewrite a 27-year-old cold war treaty banning the building of anti-missile defences around cities, and slapping sanctions on Moscow institutes accused of helping Iran build weapons.

Once, Russia's furious responses to each move — right up to withdrawing its ambassadors from Washington

and London over Iraq — would have set alarm bells ringing in the West. Now Russia's anger is seen as posturing, a predictable inconvenience.

It has taken a long time for Russia's neighbours to accept that its armed forces are barely capable of defending Russia, let alone mounting overseas operations, but yesterday the commander of the armed forces of tiny ex-Soviet Estonia, one-hundredth the size of its neighbour, admitted Russia no longer posed a threat.

The most influential foreign affairs adviser in another former Soviet republic, Azerbaijan, said yesterday that his country wanted to see U.S. and Turkish bases on its soil.

Despairingly, the popular Moscow daily Moskovsky Komsomolets said Ukraine, the biggest ex-Soviet state after Russia, was turning into a Nato ally — and there was little Russia could do to stop it.

In a sign of the side-lining of Russia, Washington says its plans for an anti-missile shield over the U.S. have nothing to do with the Soviet nuclear arsenal but are aimed against future long-range rockets from such countries as North Korea.

With Russia's entire federal budget less than half that of Texas, the U.S. no longer takes seriously threats such as Moscow's, that any U.S. anti-missile system would be countered by new Russian weapons — particularly

when Russia is seeking U.S. help in everything from debt restructuring and food aid to the millennium bug. The long-term danger for the West is of discounting Russian pride and alienating the country too deeply for too long.

"Sooner or later, Moscow will again be a major international player," Mr Rogov said in a recent speech. "That is why it matters whether the Russian Federation comes back as a responsible player, contributing to global prosperity and peace. The alternative is for Russia to bear grudges against the new world order."

— The Guardian

The struggle for Lebanon

The Lebanese Conflict: Looking Inward
Latif Abul-Husn,
Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1998.
171 pp. \$42.00.

By Fawaz A. Gerges

MANY BOOKS have been written on the devastating Lebanese War that lasted for almost fifteen years, 1975-1990, and that cost around 150,000 casualties and billions of dollars in damage to the physical infrastructure of the country. Although the material costs of the Lebanese War were prohibitive, they pale by comparison with the political, moral, and psychological effects. An entire generation of Lebanese youth was born and socialised into this bloody and violent culture.

Hundreds of thousands of Lebanese citizens left the country in search of security and peace. The social and political milieu was torn apart and fragmented further. A Hobbesian state of nature prevailed where provincial, factional, tribal, and sectarian sentiments superseded and overshadowed larger nationalist loyalties. Government institutions and agencies were marginalised in the process.

Foreign intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs also intensified and deepened. The country became a theatre on which regional and great powers fought their dirty skirmishes and conflicts.

For all these reasons, Lebanon came very close to the brink of collapse.

While the books agree that the war has structurally affected state, society and politics in Lebanon, they differ on the factors that caused and prolonged the conflict. Three overarching explanations or hypotheses dominate the conventional views of the nature and causes of the War.

The first hypothesis stipulates that the Lebanese conflict was determined solely by the intervention of foreign powers. At the heart of this explanation lies the suspicion and belief that Lebanon, given its fragile multifaceted and dynamic political system, has always been coveted and targeted by its more powerful neighbours and outside powers. These powers have used and abused Lebanon's open social and political frontiers to pursue their own agendas and fight their wars of proxy on the Lebanese theatre. Many Lebanese observers subscribe to this view, and they argue that, left to their own devices, Lebanon political and religious groups would find ways to come to terms with each other without reverting to violence. One of the most articulate advocates of this point of view is Ghassan Tuani who coined the term "others war" on Lebanese soil to refer to the preponderant role of foreign intervention.

An opposing second explanation places the core of the conflict on the collapse of the domestic socio-political and economic structure. The malfunctioning of this structure exacerbated dormant internal tensions that ultimately led to the outbreak of the civil war in 1975.

Thirdly, some analysts contend the Lebanese War may be explained by the convergence of domestic politics and regional and international events. According to this hypothesis, the intensification of inter-Arab rivalries, coupled with the escalation of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Cold War, coincided with the polarisation of Lebanese domestic politics; this interplay between domestic, regional, and international variables might explain the outbreak and subsequent escalation of the Lebanese war.

Latif Abul-Husn, a career officer with the Lebanese Foreign Service, who has served as Lebanon's ambassador to Australia and New Zealand since 1985, briefly lists the three hypotheses, and finds them wanting. He contends that the origin of the war lay neither with external forces nor with the decaying socio-economic and political structure, but with the conflict within and between Lebanon's communal groups: "the social structure is the spawning ground of conflict, and that the conflict itself contributes to the potential (and eventual) weakening of the social structure."

(p. 2). Abul-Husn notes that the 1975 war revolved around three main issues: (1) reform of the political system; (2) the national identity of Lebanon; and (3) Lebanon's sovereignty. Although other issues emerged as the conflict evolved, only these three themes endured.

Abul-Husn stresses further that the root causes of the War were inherent in the historical evolution of a social and political structure that generated behavioural patterns and that led to an overall tendency toward conflict in Lebanese society. Segmentation and cleavages in Lebanon have emerged along sectarian lines, engendering strong ideological and political divisions in the country. The author argues that the segmented communal character of Lebanese society was hardened and factional loyalties strengthened. As the structure of Lebanese society grew more rigid, it became less capable of coping with internal pressures resulting from socio-economic change and external pressures resulting from regional crises. Abul-Husn delineates the segmented social structure as the independent source that explains the genesis, growth, and resolution of the conflict among the various Lebanese factions. While internal and external factors coalesced and played catalytic and supportive roles in determining the balance of power between the groups, as well as influencing the intensity and duration of the war, Abul-Husn stresses the decisive role of the segmented social structure in providing fertile ground for these internal and external variables: "The factors that provoked the conflict process are mainly grounded in the social structure" (p. 59).

Abul-Husn notes that Lebanese communal society consists of several social layers that, while existing side by side, often in harmony, remain void of a basic central value system and widespread acculturation. Lebanese communities live next to each other and interact with one another economically, but this level of interaction was not strong and intense enough to integrate the various communities into one social system. In other words, Lebanese society has preserved its multi-communal characteristics over the centuries and has failed to develop an integrated social system. Furthermore, Abul-Husn asserts that narrow communal interests have penetrated the very structure of the social order and have created separate value systems. Here lies Abul-Husn's central thesis: "The genesis of that conflict is the social structure: the war was born of the communal contradictions inherent in this structure and exacerbated by external conditions and factors. The conflict process is itself cause as well as an outcome of change" (p. 61).

Abul-Husn tries to construct a conceptual framework by looking at the political power struggle in terms of Ibn Khaldun's concept of *asabiya* (unbending adherence and blind belief in the tribal system) and Ralf Dahrendorf's notion of authority.

Both sociologists share with Karl Marx the assumption that the social system is the spawning ground for conflicting tendencies. While Marx, however, postulates that differential distribution of property is the major source of conflict, Ibn Khaldun and Dahrendorf emphasise the role of *asabiya* and positions of authority. Abul-Husn uses these two conceptual keys to address the question of how the war is best understood: (1) by studying the active involvement of the warring groups, or (2) by investigating the contradictions and cleavages in the social structure? The author believes that the long-term structural cleavages in Lebanese society incapacitated the social structure and made it vulnerable for exploitation by various communal factions. These intractable communal cleavages have been kept alive over the years by the sectarian drive for positions of power and authority and rising *asabiya* consciousness among the citizenry. Even the existence of political institutions reinforced rather than ameliorated conflict between the various groups. For example, political parties that have been numerous in Lebanon are more oriented toward preserving the sectarian value system than toward a healthy legislative life.

Abul-Husn suggests that political life in Lebanon, including political institutions, will be infected with sectarianism and factionalism so long as the communal social structure remains segmented and splintered. The author raises but never answers fully the critical question of whether political institutions may succeed in the long run in accommodating and regulating the structural cleavages and ensuring divergent interests that beset multi-communal societies. After all, one is hard pressed to explain the relative stability that characterised political life in Lebanon until 1975. It is easy to fall into the trap of hindsight and argue that consociationalism failed in Lebanon. Abul-Husn implies just that when he asserts that consociational politics "failed to establish a more enduring political system that would be self-regulating, as well as manage and resolve the underlying tendency toward conflict" (p. 137). The fact remains, however, that political institutions, to a certain extent, were able to regulate conflict and mediate among the various groups in Lebanon until the outbreak of the 1975 War. The challenge is to assess the relative weight and function of political institutions and find effective and rational ways to reform them and induce them to act in the national interest rather than to advance narrow sectarian concerns. This ambitious goal informed the attempt to reform the National Pact of 1943 that culminated in the 1989 Taif Accord, and which terminated the War, and restored the basic principles of consociationalism to the Lebanese political system.

How successful has the Taif Accord been in addressing and trying to resolve the underlying three main causes around which the 1975 War revolved? Abul-Husn notes that for the time being the Accord ended the conflict and restored legitimacy to the concept of multi-communalism and efficiency to consociational management. However, the Accord "fell short of providing an all-inclusive conflict resolution mechanism to Lebanon's sectarian loyalties. Although it acknowledged the necessity of phasing it out in stages, the accord retained consociationalism as a foundation of communal relations. This continues to be an issue with significant implications for the political system. If unresolved, Lebanon will remain in the danger zone of repeated episodes of violent conflict" (p. 122).

In other words, while the Taif Accord resolved the political aspect of the conflict, it has not tackled its underlying social origins: "violence may erupt in the future if the contradictory social conditions again become salient" (p. 131). The author laments the fact that social institutions were retained, and their salience in the new Lebanon was reinforced, not diminished, by the Taif Accord. Abul-Husn refrains from a frontal onslaught on the Taif Accord because he appreciates its short-term political benefits: the Accord worked out a compromise through which communal enmities were readressed and a semblance of a balance was restored.

What is to be done? Abul-Husn believes that certain basic features of the social structure must be changed, including the sectarian regime and communal relations vis-a-vis the authority structure. A divorce between communal identity and political access may be Lebanon's best hope for lasting peace, the author contends. How to bring about these changes? The author assigns a great deal of responsibility to the state. He calls on Lebanon's decision makers to transform Lebanese society from a tribal-like structure into a society where the citizen is liberated from his provincial loyalties. He also calls on the state to establish a welfare system that provides a viable framework to address the individual's needs for stability, identity, and economic security. These needs now are pursued through the individual's affiliation with a communal group, political organisation, or kinship system.

The importance of *The Lebanese Conflict* is that it raises more questions than it attempts to answer. Abul-Husn's account is also politically balanced and conceptually rigorous; he is less polemical and more measured and

reflective. It is true Abul-Husn's concept of the social structure is not original. Many writers referred to the effects of social practices and beliefs on Lebanese society and politics. Unlike other works, however, Abul-Husn critically examines the evolution, growth, and operation of the social structure on the Lebanese polity, and his focused analysis convincingly shows its pernicious and dangerous repercussions.

However, the author uses the overarching notion of the social structure very liberally: the social structure does not only cause conflict but also contributes to the further weakening of the social structure. It is a deadly, repetitive cycle that claims to explain everything. The difficulty with any concept that seeks to explain everything is that it ends up explaining nothing. Societal and political phenomena are very complex and dynamic. Indeed, segmented social structures and processes have played a decisive role in causing political violence in Lebanon. But these structures and processes cannot be examined or isolated separately from socio-economic and political dynamics that have equally engendered conflictive behavioural patterns. The concept of the social structure is useful in so much as it calls attention to the deep seated communal and tribal cleavages that have blunted Lebanon while. The author's focus on this concept also helps the reader to fully appreciate the complexity of Lebanon's fragmented civil society and inherent political instability, while, at the same time, refraining from the tendency to blame all the country's problems and difficulties on foreign powers.

But the danger of overstressing the concept of the social structure leads to analytical distortion and simplification. One may easily lose sight of the important role of socio-economic and political factors and the close links between internal and external politics. Any attempt to understand Lebanon's predicament must take into account the complex relationship between domestic, regional and international variables. The establishment and continued survival of Lebanon owes much to this delicate balance. Abul-Husn does not pay adequate attention to this reality. He over stresses the preponderant role of the social structure at the expense of other equally critical factors.

Another related shortcoming of *The Lebanese Conflict* lies in its non-comparative historical structure. Being a work of political science, it is rich with references to political and sociological concepts, but it uses history as illustration, not as a rich reservoir of ideas. The author's prescriptions are also a little simplistic. His approach may simply be summarised as statist. Although state institutions need to be urgently and desperately reformed and modernised, neither a welfare system nor modernisation from top down can do the trick.

The big challenge facing Lebanon is how to transform a communal, sectarian structure into a genuine civil society; how to inspire individuals, with tribal and sectarian loyalties, to become full-fledged citizens; how to establish and consolidate an independent legal system that protects citizens' rights. The struggle for civil society and true citizenship in Lebanon should take precedence over other priorities. Lebanese polity would likely remain volatile and unstable so long as civil society is subordinated to factional sectarian interests. Sad as it is, the transformation and creation of a genuine civil society in Lebanon will take generations, not years, to bring about. In this regard, education and historical evolution are as important, if not more so, as the role of political leadership.

The writer holds the Christian A. Johnson Chair in International Affairs and Middle East Studies at Sarah Lawrence College, New York. He is the author of *America and Political Islam: Clash of Cultures or Clash of Interests?* (New York: Cambridge University Press).

Star Trek cookbook: Resistance is futile

By Gail Appleson

Reuters

EAT YOUR hearts out, Star Trek fans. There is now a cookbook to tell you how to make anything from Klingon blood wine and worm-like gagh to Ferengi slug liver.

The official Star Trek Cookbook is a must for those seeking new food frontiers and the secrets of interstellar haute cuisine. Readers will go where no chef has gone before.

The book is written by Neelix, alias Einar Phillips, the peppy orange-blond chef of the U.S.S. Voyager, along with co-author William Bimes. Published by the Pocket Books division of Simon & Schuster, it goes on sale Jan. 9 and, as the Borg say, "resistance is futile."

The volume, which follows last month's release of the latest Star Trek movie "Insurrection," is filled with camp and inside humour about key characters from the original Star Trek series, The Next Generation, Deep Space Nine and Voyager. It includes recipes for some of the out-of-this-world and almost unpronounceable foods that appear on the shows along with some real ones offered by many of the humanoid stars of the series.

There is even a complete guide for whipping up the drinks served at Quark's bar on Deep Space Nine with descriptions of such favourites as Andorian ale and Gamzian wine.

Put it this way: If hyperaggressive Klingon warrior Worf (actor Michael Dorn) is your cup of tea, you will definitely want to read the recipes for his prune juice cocktail and his mother's Rokes Blood Pie.

"The harsh taste and equally harsh reaction to prune juice prompted Worf to declare himself a 'warrior's drink' that readies the body for battle. I wouldn't dispute Worf on this, because I can see why, after a night of blood pites and blood wine, he'd want his prune juice the next day," Neelix writes.

Alan Sims, the Star Trek prop guru, writes that meals on the show are basically made up of "monster food" but it is different monster food depending on the alien consuming it.

For example, food for gentle, vegetarian Talaxians such as Neelix is quite different from what would satisfy battle-hungry Klingons — who like to yell things like "Today is a good day to die" — or the big-eared, bug-eating Ferengi.

"Tallaxian concoctions are a little bit more adorable," Sims said. As for Klingon food, "my interpretation is this is stuff that, when you look at it, you want to just reach... it's living worms, serpents and even organs that monsters eat." There is the popular blood wine, for example, that can be made to look like it contains "nice floating red corpses" by running frozen cranberries through a blender. Sims says he uses raw liver to make "heart of targ," another Klingon favourite.

"It's true what they say," writes Neelix. "If you want to be a Klingon warrior, you gotta have heart." If eating Klingon fare does not seem like a good way to live long and prosper, a more genteel diet can be found in the chapter on "Afternoon Tea with Captain Picard" with recipes for waterless sandwiches, Madeleines and a cocktail of Earl Grey tea leaves and Grand Marnier. The intellectual Jean-Luc Picard is played by Shakespearean actor Patrick

Stewart.

A totally different challenge is presented in the feeding of Seven of Nine, the Barbie doll-shaped Borg who is now part of the Voyager crew. The Borg are cybernetic humanoids who are half human and half machine and named by their number in the small units to which they belong. Famous for their "resistance is futile" warning, they are feared throughout the galaxy because they conquer other races by assimilating them.

Neelix says he had trouble finding nourishment to please Seven but came up with something called a tricorder (hand-held sensor instrument) pie made up of chopped bio-neural gel pack casing, plasma oil and minced nacelle discharge socket.

He said she has also learned to like certain humanoid food such as Seven-Up and anything from a 7-Eleven store. "Although she fought me when it came time to eat, my cooking was so wonderful her resistance was futile," he writes.

Neelix/Phillips told Reuters in a tele-



That's not logical: Spock contributed his favourite dish Kasha Varnishkas a la Vulcan (file photo)

phone interview from his Los Angeles home that the inspiration for the book actually came from Bimes, co-author of the best seller "The Day After Roswell," who approached him with the idea.

"We hashed some ideas about it," he said. "Instead of live worms, we tried to take everything down to Earth level." Neelix said he solicited recipes from all the key Star Trek actors and received quite a few family favourites such as Kasha Varnishkas a la Vulcan from Leonard Nimoy (Mr. Spock) and Bashir's Spam-and-Beans Bolognese from Alexander Siddig (Dr. Julian Bashir). Jeri Ryan, who plays shapeless Seven of Nine, says her contribution, a recipe for wild mushroom soup, is low in fat — "my costume's No. 1 priority."

Neelix said most of the recipes submitted by the actors were vegetarian. "Then, of course, Talaxians and Vulcans are vegetarians." In real life Phillips is not a vegetarian but he does not really cook that often either. And even on Star Trek the Voyager crew is often pretty critical of his creations.

"I can count on one hand with two fingers left over the times I've been complimented on the show on my cooking," he said. In fact the cookbook even includes the top ten reasons the crew hates his cooking including "kidney is not a breakfast food," "Tuesday is fungus night" and "the fruitcake leaks."

Rubin: Sound policies key to ending financial turmoil

U.S. urges Europe and Japan to help world economy

DAVOS. Switzerland (R) — The United States Saturday challenged Europe and Japan to finally live up to their responsibilities in the troubled world economy and help end a stubborn global financial crisis that refuses to go away.

Taking the stage at an exclusive meeting of political, finance and business leaders in the Swiss Alps, U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said the key to ending the world's worst financial turmoil in half a century was to pursue sound policies and break down barriers to the free flow of goods and capital.

But he warned that the United States could not go it alone.

"For a healthy global economy it's very important for the other industrial countries in the world — Europe and Japan — to focus aggressively on promoting domestic demand-led growth and substantially reduce formal and informal barriers to trade," he said at the World Economic Forum.

Rubin's plea came a day after U.S. Vice President Al Gore delivered a similarly strong message to Tokyo: "Please, we need your help to deal with this global economic crisis."

Washington's calls on Japan to pull itself up by the bootstraps have become more urgent over recent months as the situation in the world's number two economy has shown no sign of improvement. Without growth in Japan, U.S. officials say, the rest of Asia has no chance of emerging from its own deep slump.

As to Europe, Washington has warned the continent not to forget the urgent need for structural reforms that would boost labour mobility and cut red tape as its leaders concentrate on making the new single currency, the euro, work.

But Japan's seemingly endless economic slide has stirred even greater worries — and desperation — in Washington.

U.S. officials have repeatedly warned Tokyo to deal with its precarious fiscal situation and ailing banking sector right away or risk being relegated to the rank of a second-rate economy.

In a sign of growing desperation over Tokyo's slow response, Rubin Friday signalled Washington may no longer be opposed to using monetary policy to shore up the Japanese economy.

He stopped short of endorsing suggestions that Tokyo should print

more money to kick-start languishing domestic demand but said Japan needed to look at "all available policy tools" while carefully considering the effects of using monetary policy.

Rubin reiterated his strong opposition to manipulating currencies or rein in the free flow of capital to that end.

Rejecting European calls to establish target zones for the world's major currencies, Rubin said the key to more stability in the world's free-wheeling foreign exchange markets was sound underlying policies and the will to stick with them.

A sensible exchange rate regime "means floating rates supported by sound policies," he said, adding that aiming at specific currency levels or even ranges risked deflecting from the overarching need to pursue sound domestic policies.

"As we look back over the experience of this crisis, we can see that the absolute key to financial stability and economic growth is consistent adherence to strong macroeconomic and structural policy," he said in the text of prepared remarks.

Rubin said such policies were not only key to calming volatile currency

markets but also to maintaining the confidence of skittish international investors. Trying to rein in the free flow of capital was the wrong way to go about it, he said.

"Over time they retard growth, deter investment from abroad, become harder and harder to administer, and are often used as a substitute for reform," he added.

Rubin, his spirits boosted by evidence that the U.S. economy remains by far the most powerful growth engine in the world even in its eighth year of uninterrupted expansion, insisted that all signs pointed to continued solid growth in the

year ahead.

He played down worries over the nation's ballooning trade deficit, boosted to record levels as exports to crisis-ridden nations have plummeted and imports surged, and insisted the key response should be more openness to trade elsewhere.

Washington, for its part, was committed to open markets.

"It is almost impossible...to avoid the conclusion that the United States has simply been more open to absorbing the exports of countries seeking to recover from crisis," Rubin said.

Asian leaders see no return to pre-crisis growth

DAVOS. Switzerland (AFP) — Asian economies will recover from their financial crisis over the next few years, but should not aspire to return to pre-crisis growth levels which were unsustainable, Asian leaders said Saturday.

Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew said the post-crisis economic climate was fundamentally different from that which fostered the Asian miracle of the 1980s and 1990s.

"If they restore confidence and the economy begins to tick again, it will take two, three, four, maybe five years in some countries," he told the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in the Swiss ski resort of Davos.

But he added: "I do not see growth recovering at six, eight, or 10 per cent, because those ... halcyon

days are over. We are going to face a different world, more competitive, more severe."

The Asian crisis, as well as the economic storms afflicting Russia and Brazil, are a dominant theme of this year's meeting, which has as its theme "Responsible Globality."

The WEF meeting gathers together some 1,000 global business chiefs with more than 250 politicians and heads of state and government.

Hong Kong chief executive Tung Chee Hwa agreed with Lee, and said Asian leaders must look to economic fundamentals.

"There is no particular magic policy, we need to constantly go back to the basics, bow to rebuild the confidence," he stressed. Countries in Asia will come to grips with their problems

at different speeds."

Referring to U.S. economic woes in the late 1980s and European problems, he said: "I have no doubt all of us in Asia will go through the painful process. It may take some time, but we will come out of it too."

The importance of Japan's role in supporting global recovery has been a theme of talks at the Davos meeting. US Vice-President Al Gore said Friday: "The stakes are very high," and appealed to Japan: "Please, we need your help to deal with this global economic crisis."

Lee said that crisis-hit East Asian economies can recover without a turnaround in Japan, but only to a limited extent. "Can we bounce back without a Japanese recovery, yes we can bounce back but not to

the growth levels seen before the Asian crisis," he said Friday.

The Singapore leader said an educated workforce would be the crucial asset for Asian countries seeking to recover and develop into knowledge-based economies. This was in stark contrast to Asia's previous boom years.

"The last time it was simply taking them from agriculture and putting them in industry, assembly line production," he said. "The countries that are likely to do well in the next stage of

the recovery are those with a workforce who are educated and trained for a knowledge-based economies."

Tung concluded with a warning that world leaders must not neglect moves to support Asia's recovery, as they react to the other crises in places like Russia and Brazil.

"If the lights go out in Asia the impact on the global economy will be really unimaginable," he said.

Iran expects to earn \$12b from oil exports

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran, the second largest oil producer in the Middle East, expects to earn \$12 billion from such exports this year, according to forecasts made by parliament.

The assembly anticipated total revenues of \$10.6 billion from crude exports and another \$1.47 billion from the sale of oil-related products.

The figures were set out in the government's proposed budget for next year, which aims to cut state spending following collapsing oil prices in the past year.

Iran has been hard hit by falling crude prices and expects

at least a \$5 billion deficit for the coming fiscal year.

The country is counting on crude sales receipts of \$11.8 a barrel, although Iranian crude is currently selling at around \$9 a barrel.

Iran depends on oil exports for over 80 per cent of its hard currency earnings and its economy is immensely vulnerable to price fluctuations.

The parliament this month approved a 75 per cent rise in domestic petrol prices, though the hike was considerably less than the 275 per cent increase the government demanded in a bid to cut public spending.

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Exchange Rates

Saturday, 30-01-99

CURRENCY	JORDAN DINAR	SAUDI RYAL	U.A.E. DIRHAME	BAHRAIN DINAR	OMAN RYAL	QATAR RYAL	YEMEN RYAL	YEMEN RYAL	YEMEN RYAL	YEMEN RYAL
JORDAN DINAR	1.0000	0.1888	0.1827	1.8778	1.8389	0.1944	2.3386	0.2077	0.7080	0.7080
SAUDI RYAL	5.2978	1.0000	1.0206	9.8478	9.7416	1.0300	12.3888	1.1003	3.7507	3.7507
U.A.E. DIRHAME	5.1683	0.8796	1.0000	9.7443	9.5424	1.0069	12.1354	1.0778	3.6740	3.6740
BAHRAIN DINAR	0.5326	0.1005	0.1026	1.0000	0.8793	0.1035	1.2454	0.1106	0.3770	0.3770
OMAN RYAL	0.5438	0.1027	0.1048	1.0212	1.0000	0.1057	1.2717	0.1130	0.3850	0.3850
QATAR RYAL	5.1434	0.9709	0.9912	8.8581	9.4580	1.0000	12.0281	1.0683	3.8418	3.8418
YEMEN RYAL	0.4276	0.0807	0.0824	0.8030	0.7863	0.0831	1.0000	0.0888	0.3028	0.3028
YEMEN RYAL	4.8145	0.9088	0.9278	8.0407	8.5933	0.9391	11.2891	1.0000	3.4082	3.4082
YEMEN RYAL	27.4337	4.0552	4.1369	40.3405	39.5344	4.1769	50.2395	4.4621	15.2102	15.2102
YEMEN RYAL	1.4124	0.2696	0.2722	2.5922	2.5973	0.2748	3.3031	0.2934	1.0000	1.0000
YEMEN RYAL	0.8577	0.1619	0.1653	1.8105	1.5772	0.1658	2.0057	0.1781	0.6072	0.6072
YEMEN RYAL	2.4116	0.4552	0.4647	4.5284	4.3446	0.4699	5.6396	0.5009	1.7074	1.7074
YEMEN RYAL	1.9868	0.3750	0.3828	3.7304	3.6531	0.3862	4.8457	0.4126	1.4063	1.4063
YEMEN RYAL	8.0880	1.5267	1.5589	15.1875	14.8727	1.5726	18.8143	1.6796	5.7263	5.7263
YEMEN RYAL	1.8225	0.3076	0.3143	3.0598	2.9965	0.3168	3.8107	0.3385	1.1537	1.1537
YEMEN RYAL	2.7172	0.5129	0.5238	5.1023	4.9968	0.5263	6.3544	0.6644	1.9238	1.9238
YEMEN RYAL	10.8919	2.0580	2.0869	20.4627	20.0288	2.1177	25.4715	2.2623	7.7116	7.7116
YEMEN RYAL	23.8747	4.5067	4.6008	44.8315	43.9023	4.6418	55.8324	4.9589	16.9333	16.9333
YEMEN RYAL	43.7400	8.3892	8.5852	83.4010	81.4651	8.6707	116.3301	10.3312	35.2169	35.2169
YEMEN RYAL	2.2545	0.4256	0.4344	4.2334	4.1457	0.4283	5.2722	0.4683	1.5992	1.5992
YEMEN RYAL	3.9550	0.7488	0.7643	7.4472	7.2928	0.7711	9.2746	0.8237	2.8079	2.8079
YEMEN RYAL	2.6836	0.5085	0.5171	5.0393	4.9348	0.5218	6.2758	0.5574	1.8000	1.8000
YEMEN RYAL	16.5867	3.2027	3.2686	31.8597	31.1994	3.2988	39.6776	3.5240	12.0124	12.0124
YEMEN RYAL	2.1489	0.4053	0.4137	4.0314	3.9478	0.4174	5.0206	0.4460	1.5000	1.5000
YEMEN RYAL	1.2330	0.2328	0.2376	2.3154	2.2574	0.2387	2.8835	0.2561	0.8730	0.8730

CURRENCY	US DOLLAR	GERMAN MARK	FRANCE FRANC	UK POUND	ITALY LIRA	SPAIN PESA	NETHERLAND GILDER	SWITZERLAND FRANC	YEMEN RYAL	YEMEN RYAL
US DOLLAR	1.0000	1.6663	0.5957	0.7110	0.1745	0.0668	0.5198	5.9160	1.1455	1.1455
GERMAN MARK	0.6072	1.0000	0.3557	0.4317	0.1060	0.0383	0.3156	3.5924	0.6956	0.6956
FRANCE FRANC	1.7047	2.8117	1.0000	1.2139	0.2862	0.1479	0.8755	10.1010	1.6559	1.6559
UK POUND	1.4365	2.3182	0.8238	1.0000	0.2456	0.1291	0.7311	8.3208	1.6111	1.6111
ITALY LIRA	5.7253	9.3631	3.3698	4.0713	1.0000	0.3634	2.9706	33.8769	8.5595	8.5595
SPAIN PESA	112.3700	188.9813	67.5705	82.0283	20.1474	1.0000	89.8702	882.5307	132.1563	132.1563
NETHERLAND GILDER	1.9328	3.1881	1.1267	1.3678	0.3380	0.0875	1.0000	11.3812	2.2037	2.2037
SWITZERLAND FRANC	7.7115	12.8893	4.5165	5.4822	1.3467	0.6841	4.0095	45.6214	8.5033	8.5033
YEMEN RYAL	16.5933	27.6353	9.9003	12.0180	2.9519	14.6514	8.7864	1.0000	19.3627	19.3627
YEMEN RYAL	35.2159	57.8935	20.6255	25.0380	6.1489	30.5243	18.3055	208.3378	40.3390	40.3390
YEMEN RYAL	1.5862	2.6286	0.9349	1.1349	0.2787	1.3635	0.8287	9.4430	1.8284	1.8284
YEMEN RYAL	2.8779	4.6240	1.6445	1.9964	0.4904	2.4536	1.4588	16.6116	3.2161	3.2161
YEMEN RYAL	1.5000	2.4288	0.8718	1.0509	0.2618	1.0488	0.9676	11.2404	2.1763	2.1763
YEMEN RYAL	12.0124	19.7820	7.0335	8.5496	2.0978	10.4121	6.2441	71.0635	13.7602	13.7602
YEMEN RYAL	1.5200	2.5031	0.8802	1.0607	0.2684	1.3175	0.7901	8.9923	1.7412	1.7412
YEMEN RYAL	0.9730	1.6376	0.6207	0.7513	0.1925	0.7567	0.4588	5.1646	1.0000	1.0000




MAJOR CURRENCIES AGAINST JORDAN DINAR

NOTE: NEITHER ACCESS NOR THE PUBLISHER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR MISTAKES

CURRENCY	1 M	3 M	6 M	1 YEAR
US DOLLAR	5.0600	4.8700	4.7100	4.7100
GERMAN MARK	6.2500	6.0000	5.7600	5.4700
FRANCE FRANC	3.1700	3.1000	3.0000	3.0000
UK POUND	3.0800	3.0200	2.9600	2.9000
NETHERLAND GILDER	1.3750	1.3500	1.3250	1.3000
YEMEN RYAL	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

CENTRAL BANK BULLETIN

CURRENCY	ASK	BID
US DOLLAR	0.7000	0.7100
GERMAN MARK	0.4100	0.4100
FRANCE FRANC	0.1250	0.1250
UK POUND	0.1250	0.1250
NETHERLAND GILDER	0.0114	0.0114
YEMEN RYAL	0.0114	0.0114
NETHERLAND GILDER	0.0114	0.0114
YEMEN RYAL	0.0114	0.0114
NETHERLAND GILDER	0.0114	0.0114
YEMEN RYAL	0.0114	0.0114

The Consul General of the
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
in the Dominican Republic

BISHARA ISSA MILADEH

Congratulates

**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS CROWN
PRINCE ABDULLAH BEN AL HUSSEIN**

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Free from risk
- Conform
- Gratuity
- Banish
- "Kama"
- Fish eggs
- Swarms (with)
- Monarch
- Oat
- Luanda resident
- Franzied
- Football play
- Unit of radiation
- wavelengths
- Gaffer's gadget
- Mob males
- Robes in ancient Roma
- Adjective for the Beatles
- Stick it out
- Kind of palm
- Wizard
- Roach or Holbrook
- Old World finch
- Short-term investment, for short
- Gossip sheet
- of roses
- Combat zone
- Football penalty
- Pennies: abbr.
- Cooking herb
- Actress Vidal
- Affectionate couple
- Group of eight
- Compass pt.
- Female vampire
- Donizetti opera
- "di Lammormoor"
- Observe
- English country
- Ariane and Roald
- DOWN
- Tennis unit
- Lumberjack's tool
- Football score
- Sailor's saint
- Effects
- Egyptian horned viper
- Pair
- Before birth
- Snaris
- Musical refrain
- Jots
- Hammer heads
- Drink heavily
- Black goo
- Welland
- "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" writer Loos
- Carrier
- Acting the ham
- Barnyard enclosure
- Columbus's port
- Punt-returner's signal
- Shoelace tip
- Lugosi and Barok
- Showy flowers
- Wharton School deg.
- Printable
- Merest grip
- Storm
- Prime meridian letters
- Bob and Elizabeth
- Irregularly notched
- Landing place on a river
- Shapes
- S. American nation
- Board-game cube
- Jazzy instrument
- Be II
- Prosecuting officers: abbr.

ANAT SELES PIGS
LAME AROSE INRI
UPPERCRUST ENIO
MASTERED BICEPS
ROOPEP PACER
ROOTED RECESSED
USUAL PERKS PRE
NATL PILES GAMA
IKE SHOES DECAL
CARRYOUT FINEST
BENTS RENE
FIASCO SERAPHIM
LONE LOWERHOUSE
ANKA ANISE OGLE
PSST BEGET LEEK

Peanuts

NO, I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY DOUGHNUTS CALLING YOU. DOUGHNUTS CAN'T TALK.

MAYBE SO, BUT I'VE HEARD THEM TELL SOME PRETTY FUNNY STORIES

Andy Capp

WHAT A SHOWER

WHO?

THE TEAM

BEFORE I START ON ABOUT THE REST OF THE TEAM, LET'S HAVE A GOOD LOOK AT MYSELF, SH-

HE PREFERS TO EXAMINE THE DAZZLING GAME HE PLAYED

Mutt'n' Jeff

IF YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED SO BAD WHY DON'T YOU GO TO THE MATRIMONIAL BUREAU?

TO LIVE TO HAVE A WIFE, SIR?

YESSIR, MAY I ASK HOW OLD YOU ARE?

THIRTY-THREE, SIR?

THEN I SUPPOSE YOU WOULD LIKE A WIFE ABOUT THIRTY-SIX?

WELL, IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, I'D RATHER HAVE TWO AT EIGHTEEN!

HOW HERE'S A NICE NUMBER: SHE SAYS SHE'S EIGHTEEN! HAD HER ON TWENTY-THREE THE FIRST TIME SHE GOT MARRIED!

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

"You asked me to make my cooking more attractive, so I glued lashes on the black-eyed peas."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GANKS

SYSEM

WOTOWK

BENZAR

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Jordanian pharmaceutical companies seek 'contract manufacturing' agreements with multinational strategic partners

** ACCORDING TO the Jordanian Association of Pharmaceutical and Medical Appliances Manufacturers, the volume of medicines subject to patent is estimated at \$12 million. The association's president, Maher Matalqa, said the national pharmaceutical industry has been able to compete with international companies by exercising quality control on the products before and after manufacturing.

Matalqa added that the Jordanian industry fully complies with international standards and specifications and is committed to the "good manufacturing principles." He indicated that many companies have acquired the ISO 9001 certificate and the approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration noting that Jordanian pharmaceutical products are available in the U.S. market.

He rejected pressure from a U.S. lobby group of pharmaceutical researchers and manufacturers to cut the transitional period for Jordanian drug industry in the negotiations to join the WTO (World Trade Organisation). "The transitional period is very important for the pharmaceutical industry to adjust and adapt in order to enable it enter the international markets," Matalqa said noting that the U.S. is pressuring for full implementation of the agreement from day one after joining the WTO. According to a report from the U.S. lobby group, the U.S. companies lose \$9 billion annually for the lack of intellectual property rights and of market controls that regulate prices in other producing countries.

Matalqa stressed that the latest survey conducted by the association showed the volume of medicines subject to patents to be around \$12 million including exports. He highlighted the most important challenge facing the pharmaceutical industry to be in abiding by international agreements such as the Jordanian-European partnership and WTO accords. The agreements stipulate abiding by TRIPs or intellectual property rights and give a ten-year transitional period for adjustment starting from Jan. 1, 1995.

The association president urged finding new markets to export generic medicines to them. "We are seriously thinking of exporting to the European Union (EU) as some Jordanian companies have been able to register some of their products in EU states," he said. "Moreover we have started an integrated programme in cooperation with the Swedish government to rehabilitate the pharmaceutical industry in order to enter the international markets."

The rehabilitation covers training and conforming standards and specifications. Matalqa said noting that sales of medicines in the EU states is expected to amount to \$12 billion next year. He emphasised the importance of finding multinational strategic partners to give franchise licensing to Jordanian companies for exporting purposes noting that the search is underway for strategic manufacturing partners at Jordanian plants in what is described as "contract manufacturing" (Al Ra'i).

Microsoft overtakes GE to top FT500

LONDON (AFP) — Microsoft has overtaken General Electric (GE) as the world's most valuable company, according to the FT500, the Financial Times' annual ranking of companies around the globe.

The paper said the reversed ranking for the two U.S. conglomerates reflected the markets' continuing enthusiasm for technology stocks over the last 12 months.

The survey orders firms by their market capitalisation — the share price multiplied by the number of shares issued. Microsoft was worth \$271.854 billion, said the FT, while GE was worth \$258.871 billion.

Next came Exxon, Royal Dutch/Shell — the only non-American company in the top 10 — Merck, Pfizer, Intel, Coca-Cola, Wal-Mart Stores and International Business Machines.

Overall, 244 of the top 500 firms were American, said the paper, 173 were European, 46 were Japanese, 20 were from the Asia-Pacific region, 10 were Canadian, four were Latin American, two were Middle Eastern and one was British-Australian.

Changes from the previous year reflected surging U.S. and European equity markets over 1998, according to the FT, poorly performing emerging markets, economic crisis in Japan, a wave of mergers in the U.S. and Europe and increasing values for technology stocks.

Total profits fall 9%

PARIS (AFP) — Total reported that net profits, excluding non-recurring items, had fallen by nine per cent to 6.9 billion francs (1.05 billion euros, \$1.2 billion) in 1998.

The result was in line with forecasts by most analysts. Operating profits, excluding non-recurring items, fell by 8.2 per cent to 12.5 billion francs (1.91 billion euros), Total said.

The fall of the price of oil reduced profits overall by 4.1 billion francs but growth of business and an increase of productivity boosted profits by 1.7 billion francs, company president Thierry Desmarest said.

Sales fell by 16.8 per cent to 159 billion francs (24.24 billion euros). Net earnings per share fell by 9.4 per cent to 28.1 francs (4.28 euros), excluding non-recurring items.

The average price of a barrel of North Sea Brent oil fell by 34 per cent last year to \$12.7 per barrel from \$19.1 in 1997, the company said.

But refining margins increased by eight per cent to \$16.9 per tonne from \$15.6 in 1997.

Study: Worldwide 1998 personal computer sales up 15 per cent

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Global sales of personal computers (PCs) grew 15 per cent in 1998 due to strong demand in the United States and Europe, the market research group Dataquest said Friday.

"Affordability and growing relevance of Internet content is sustaining double-digit PC growth in the United States," said Dataquest's Bill Schaub. "Dataquest's latest survey suggests that as many as 37 per cent of U.S. households are now connected to the Internet," he said.

Compaq Computers held its lead in the worldwide personal computer industry, with nearly 14 per cent market share in 1998, Dataquest said.

IBM remained second in

full-year 1998 market share ranking, but Dell Computers finished a much closer third than in 1997, having seen 65 per cent growth in sales over the year.

The industry's healthy fourth quarter growth helped push it to a strong finish for the year, the report found. According to preliminary estimates from another research group, International Data Corp. (IDC), total shipments of personal computers rose to 27.3 million units in the fourth quarter.

That represented a 23 per cent rise from the previous quarter's figure and a 15 per cent rise over 1997's fourth quarter.

Though Compaq retained

its leadership in both global and U.S. market share, it saw its U.S. market share in the fourth quarter fall to 18.1 per cent from 19.0 per cent in the year-earlier period, IDC said.

IBM's global market share for the quarter shrank to 8.2 per cent from 8.6 per cent in the year earlier period, IDC reported.

Meanwhile, Dell saw its global market share rise to 7.9 per cent from 5.5 per cent in the quarter. Dell's U.S. market share rose to 12.8 per cent from 9.9 per cent in the year earlier period.

The U.S. market for personal computers was characterised by ferocious price competition, according to the IDC study.

"Windows 98, Apple's

Mac, and low-cost Wintel (Windows-Intel based PCs) systems fuelled consumer demand to the second half of the year," IDC said. "The year finished with a bang as bargain-conscious consumers picked up PCs in record numbers during the holiday season."

Western European markets also helped sustain the industry's momentum, with faster rates of growth in sales than in any other region for the full year.

But rising sales in both the United States and Europe were somewhat offset by the pummeling impact on PC market growth of economic slumps in Japan, the Asia-Pacific region and Eastern Europe. IDC reported.

Hikma Investment raises \$8.8 million in private placement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hikma Investment, the largest pharmaceutical company in Jordan, and one of the few privately held multinational generic pharmaceutical companies in the world, offered 1,208,333 shares — representing approximately 7.1 per cent of its capital — to new and accredited investors in a private placement. The offering closed at a price of \$7.25 per share. The Export and Finance, Bank, and Atlas Investment Group co-managed the offering.

International institutional and venture capital funds took the lion's share of the offering with the remaining shares distributed across smaller investors.

Hikma Investment own production facilities in Portugal, the United States, Saudi Arabia in addition to Jordan and has a broad and diversified export market.

"Part of the company's success has been our flexibility of having several operations which can complement each other when necessary," said Said Darwazah, chairman and chief executive of Hikma Investment.

"Hikma Investment has developed the flexibility of supply, economies of scale, and broad market access that are essential to modern transnational industry," he added. The proceeds of the offering will be used mainly toward funding ongoing capital

expenditures, and the introduction of new products.

"Despite the recent turmoil in global equity markets and the corrections taking place worldwide, we were able to close the placement at a price of 21 times 1997 earnings (18 times 1998 fully diluted expected earnings)," Ali Al Husry, chairman and chief executive of the Export and Finance Bank, said.

"Based on... experienced management, strong growth fundamentals, and solid financials, Hikma Investment represented an attractive long-term investment opportunity," Al Husry added.

Hikma Investment was established in 1991 to consolidate the ownership of all the Hikma group's subsidiary companies throughout the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and the United States. The company's subsidiaries all produce high quality pharmaceuticals in finished dosage form and bulk chemicals and have extensive global marketing and distribution capabilities. All the major subsidiaries in operation have been inspected and approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) — the only pharmaceutical manufacturer in the Arab Middle East to have FDA approval. To date, the holdings of Hikma Investment total \$108 million in assets with 1998 net earnings expected to exceed \$6.4 million.

Yahoo! agrees to buy GeoCities for \$4.58b

NEW YORK (AP) — Yahoo! Inc. has announced that it is buying GeoCities Inc. for \$4.58 billion in a deal that creates the largest Web gateway and speeds the fevered pace of consolidations among Internet companies.

The deal gives Yahoo! another powerful brand name while helping GeoCities reach more Web users.

"We anticipate maintaining GeoCities as a stand-alone, very, very strong brand. There's a lot of brand equity in this company," said Tim Koogle, Yahoo!'s chief executive officer.

Yahoo!, based in Santa Clara, California, already has a minority investment in GeoCities, a

Santa Monica company that provides space for Web pages created by individuals.

Dealmaking has accelerated recently in the Internet business even as the stock market has pushed the prices of many companies to new highs.

At Home Corp. agreed this month to buy Yahoo! competitor Excite Inc. in a deal valued at \$6.7 billion. America Online Inc. agreed last fall to buy Netscape Communications Corp. for about \$4.2 billion.

The deal puts pressure on Lycos Inc., the fourth most visited Web site, to find a partner in the fast-shrinking pool of independent search and directory services, known as portals.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 1999

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You don't have any trouble talking your friends into doing whatever you have in mind. The trick is finding a way to finance it. It might feel like some of your dreams are being thwarted, but don't give up on them; Just put them on hold for a while. You'll think of something. You always do.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Looks like people are trying to tell you how to live your life today. A little of that goes a long way with you, but don't be rude. Just tell the helpful busybodies that your life is pretty much the way you want it, and you'll let them know if you need advice. Then, get back to your favourite Sunday activity: lounging in luxury!

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You may have a bit of a hangover, or a few aches and pains. Well, that's what happens when you push life to the limit. Don't complain. Most of your friends are probably in the same condition. You could commiserate with them, but what's the point? It'll do you more good to rest up. You'll need to be in top form again tomorrow.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) If you feel like having company over or visiting friends today, pick people you can be yourself around. This is a sweet pants kind of Sunday. You've had enough adventures for a while. What you need now is to relax into something familiar. Play a game you've played a thousand times before, with people whose moves you know by heart.

LEO: (July 23 to August 22) Some of the older people you'll be running into today are really stuck in their ways. You and your friend keep trying to rattle their cages, but they will not be budged. Actually, the people in question are often warm, loving and sympathetic, but only when treated kindly. Be aware today of the influence your behaviour has on the results you're achieving.

VIRGO: (August 23 to September 22) The far horizon has been beckoning for ages, but you've just been too busy. Today you could come up with the same excuse, but don't. Pick out the three most important chores, and do them. Then put your guilt to rest. You need to stretch your legs and your mind every once in a while, by doing something just for the sheer fun of it.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23)

Looks like there may be financial complications regarding travel plans today, but it really depends on what your true love has to say. If he or she wants to go, you could be talked into it. If not, then you're staying home. Libra is the sign of partnerships. Offer your own opinions, so your partner will know which way to help you decide.

SCORPIO: (October 24 to November 21) Today is a good day to make serious decisions about love, romance, real estate, career, children, marriage... and whatever else you can think of. Consider every option carefully. If you're allowing your sweetheart to participate, you'll have even more interesting things to think about. That's highly recommended, by the way.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You might get the urge to have a garage sale today. Once you get the garage cleaned out, could actually get the car in it, and thus increase its longevity. And once the car is a classic antique, it'll be even more valuable. So you can see how having a garage sale could greatly increase your overall net worth.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) There's lots of stuff in fixed signs today, slowing things down, like molasses in January. Traffic will be like that. Conversations will be like that, too. Your head may feel that way. If so, it's only because you took yesterday's advice and got fully self-expressed. It's important to do that every once in a while.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) If you decide not to think about anything more serious than which buttons to push on the remote today, you may be forgiven. Your mind has had quite a workout lately, and it needs time to regenerate, as does the rest of you, most likely. Declare today a day of rest.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) If you're a typical Pisces, you learn better by listening than by reading. If you're having trouble with a difficult subject, get a video on it. Pisces is the sign of film and one of the signs representing television, and other being Aquarius. Since the sun is in Aquarius, you have permission to watch TV today — hopefully the educational channels.

Birthstone of January: Garnet — Rose Quartz

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Hingis combats Mauresmo power for third Open title

MELBOURNE (R) — Martina Hingis won her third consecutive Australian Open women's singles title when she outclassed unseeded Frenchwoman Amelie Mauresmo 6-2 6-3 in an emotion-charged final on Saturday.

The Swiss teenager locked a brave Mauresmo out of a one-sided match by taking the ball early to neutralise her nervous opponent's power and top-spin.

Mauresmo's courage shone when she saved six championship points against her serve in an enthralling final game, only to succumb on the seventh with a netted low forehand volley.

But the final and post-match celebrations were dogged by a confusing spat over comments by second seed Hingis and World No.1 Lindsay Davenport likening Mauresmo to a man in a distracting lead-up to the final.

"Both of them apologised, so I don't want to talk about it any more," Mauresmo told reporters after her first grand slam final appearance.

The powerfully-built Mauresmo fought back from one set down to upset Davenport in the semi-finals, stunning the top seed with her raw power.

Davenport later said she thought at times she was playing a man, a theme taken up later by Hingis.

The comments sparked a flurry of local media interest in Mauresmo and her relationship with girlfriend Sylvie Bourdon, whom Mauresmo thanked after



Second seeded Martina Hingis (R) of Switzerland displays her trophy and kangaroo mascot after winning her third consecutive Australian Open title by defeating unseeded Amelie Mauresmo (L) of France in the final of the 1999 Australian Open in Melbourne Saturday. Defending champion Hingis defeated Mauresmo in straight sets 6-2, 6-3 (AFP photo)

the final.

"Thank you Christophe, thank you Sylvie for being here with me. I love you both and maybe next time, I hope," Mauresmo said in French to Bourdon and to coach Christophe Fourriere after accepting the runner-up's silver plate.

Davenport on Friday accused the media of taking her comments out of context. Hingis has denied she had said to German reporters on Thursday that Mauresmo was "half a man" and flatly refused to say any more after the final.

"It's just between me and her. What's going on besides that, nobody needs to know," Hingis told reporters.

Hounded off court by local television crews, World No. 29 Mauresmo was out-thought on it by a clinical Hingis.

The Swiss second seed fought back from 0-40 down in the eighth game of the second set to enforce what proved to be a crucial advantage after the finalists twice swapped service breaks earlier in the set.

Then came the remarkable final game when Hingis repeatedly planted

winners to all corners of the court, only for the 1996 world junior champion to claw back from the brink with winners of her own.

The 19-year-old drew Mauresmo into long rallies to dictate the course of points in the early stages of the match and broke her serve twice in a lopsided opening set.

"The score at the end pretty much says how it was. I made the important points better," Hingis said.

"This time I was more experienced and that helped me a lot," Mauresmo clawed back from two match points

against her in her opening round match against American Corina Morariu.

She showed the same fighting spirit against Hingis, as well as brief flourishes of the form that saw her upset Davenport and seeded players Patty Schnyder and Dominique Van Roost en route to the final.

Hingis countered with deft service placement, net rushes and astute choice of shots in patient rallies.

Mauresmo conceded that Hingis had too much experience for her, a factor which told on the big points.

"I'm going to learn how to deal with a grand slam final."

It's a lot of pressure, a lot of tension," she said.

The win gave Hingis her fifth grand slam singles title after winning Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in 1997. It was also her sixth Australian title, her three successive singles titles matched by three straight doubles wins.

The match was the first Australian Open final between two teenagers since Margaret Smith beat Jan Lehane in 1961.

Mauresmo can take some comfort from the fact her performance in Melbourne will catapult her into the top 20 in the world rankings.

Hingis, however, will fall a few points short of overtaking Davenport as number one in the next rankings list due out on Monday.

Davenport took the top spot from Hingis after beating her in last year's U.S. Open final.



Martina Hingis of Switzerland celebrates setting up match point during her win over Amelie Mauresmo of France in the women's final at the Australian Open (AFP photo)

Rafter-Bjorkman win doubles against Paes and Bhupathi

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Patrick Rafter got his first Grand Slam title on home soil while Jonas Bjorkman defended the doubles championship he won last year with Jacco Eltingh.

But for Indians Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi, Saturday's five-set loss in the Australian Open men's doubles championship was just another in a long line of devastating Grand Slam defeats.

"Sure we're disappointed because we fought like hell to even the match at two sets all," said Bhupathi. "Hopefully we'll take it a step further next time." Rafter and Bjorkman, the fifth seeds, received rowdy support from a combined Australia-Sweden cheer squad and scored a thrilling 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7 (10-12), 6-4 win.

Paes and Bhupathi, the top seeds and playing a 10th Slam together, had lost all four Grand Slam semi-finals they played in before this tournament.

Bjorkman and Eltingh knocked out Paes and Bhupathi in last year's Australian Open semi-finals and the Swede joined up with Rafter after Eltingh's retirement.

Rafter, the No. 4 singles player, and Bjorkman, who was No. 4 at the end of 1997, make an impressive doubles team and reached the semi-finals at last year's Wimbledon and French Open championships.

Rafter, the two-time U.S. Open singles champion, was overjoyed to take a trophy in front of home fans, who engaged in synchronized cheering along with the Swedish supporters.

"This is the first time I've been up here in front of you guys and I've always dreamed of this," Rafter told the crowd.

"I never thought it would be in the doubles but let's hope it's in the singles. I might get it one year." Later, Rafter said the reception from the crowd made him feel "happier out there than winning the

second U.S. Open." Rafter and Bjorkman started strongly and raced through the first set. The Indians fought back by breaking Rafter at 4-5 to claim the second set but Paes lost his opening serve of the third set.

Rafter lost his serve at 2-1 but Paes, the weaker of the pair all match, lost his serve again in the ninth game, allowing Bjorkman to serve out the set.

The fourth set went all the way on serve, although the Indians had a set point on Rafter's serve at 4-5.

The tiebreaker was a tense battle with the teams trading mini-breaks. Rafter and Bjorkman had a match-point to the breaker but Paes put in a strong serve to get his team back on level terms before it finished off the set.

The only break of serve in the fifth, on Paes' serve at 4-5, was enough to give away the title. Rafter's volley on a second match point ended the contest.

Kafelnikov the unlikely underdog in final

MELBOURNE (R) — Former French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov will be the unlikely underdog on Sunday when he comes up against Swedish danger man Thomas Enqvist in the Australian Open men's final.

Until this week, Enqvist had never progressed past the quarter-finals of a grand slam tournament.

Yet Enqvist has beaten the Russian 10th seed in straight sets in their two previous meetings in finals, has an overall 4-2 head-to-head advantage, and is the hottest player on tour with an 11-match winning streak.

"Hopefully I will get my chances, but I feel like I'm definitely the underdog," Kafelnikov said after routing German Tommy Haas in the semi-finals.

In the absence of Pete Sampras, with the withdrawal of Marcelo Rios and Goran Ivanisevic, and with the premature defeat of big names

such as Carlos Moya and Pat Rafter, the men's tournament has been a disappointment for organisers hoping to draw in the crowds with big names.

But the final could have been much worse. A few days ago there was the possibility of Haas meeting Ecuadorian Nicolas Pietrangeli in a veritable battle of the unknowns.

Kafelnikov and Enqvist have quite a lot in common. Both of them are 24 and both have been top 10 players. The hard-working Kafelnikov has won 17 of 30 career finals. Enqvist an impressive 14 of 17 including the Adelaide hardcourt title three weeks ago.

Both also endured poor years in 1998 before dragging themselves back into form. Enqvist warmed up for the Australian Open with wins in Adelaide and in an exhibition event in Melbourne. Kafelnikov fin-

ished off 1998 by making the final at two of his last three tournaments.

"In '98 it was a disaster year for me, except the last three weeks of the year," Kafelnikov said.

"You know, the year-ending was perfect and right after that I knew I was coming back."

"That's why I'm ready to win again, to win a big tournament."

This is the best opportunity, probably, in a grand slam that I ever had to win." In an effort to get his game back on track, Kafelnikov hired a new coach, Larry Stefanki, and the first thing they worked on was his serve.

That is that aspect of the game that Kafelnikov is banking on in the final.

"Without a serve you cannot win the match, you cannot win the tournament," he said.

For Enqvist there were few

highlights in 1998.

From a career-high ranking of six at the beginning of 1996, he slipped to 28th at the end of 1998 and was 22nd starting this year.

The major causes were foot and ankle injuries which required surgery last year and restricted him to only 17 tournaments for the season.

But on Sunday, Enqvist could grab Sweden's 25th men's grand slam title of the Open era, its first for six years, and put his name beside those of Stefan Edberg, Mats Wilander and Enqvist's childhood hero Bjorn Borg.

"Borg was my first role model," Enqvist says. "And then every other Swede that was playing well. Almost every big tournament, we had someone in the final and you looked up to all those players."

ITF considering appeal against Korda let-off

MELBOURNE (R) — The International Tennis Federation (ITF) is considering appealing against a British High Court decision stopping it from trying to ban Petr Korda for a positive dope test.

But ITF communications manager Alun James also said the federation might consider dropping the matter because of the damage it was doing to the game.

"We need to sit down with our partners in this, and think about what is best for the game of tennis," James told Reuters at the Australian Open on Saturday.

"Our other options could include a re-look at the rules to see if there are other areas that need tightening up. Whichever way we go, we'll need to learn the lessons from this case." The

ITF had appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) after its own independent appeals panel decided not to suspend Korda when he tested positive for steroids at Wimbledon last year.

But Korda's lawyers successfully argued that the federation did not have the right, under its own rules, to lodge an appeal with the International Olympic Committee-established CAS. James said the ITF had 28 days to decide whether or not it would proceed with an appeal but first wanted to discuss the case with the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) and the Women's Tennis Association (WTA).

"The ITF is disappointed," he said. "We felt that the right body to consider this was the Court of Arbitration for Sport and because of a legal technical-

ity we've not been able to present it to them, or at least currently we don't look like we've able to present it to them."

"But we have been given permission from the judge to appeal his decision to the Court of Appeal in London and that's something we are considering." The ITF appealed to the CAS because it felt its own investigating committee had mis-applied anti-doping regulations by merely taking away the ranking points and the prize money Korda earned at Wimbledon and not suspending him after he tested positive for the banned steroid nandrolone.

But the judge agreed with Korda's legal team when they argued that the ITF did not have the right to challenge a decision by its own appeals body.

The judge said: "It is difficult to

believe it could be intended that there should be a second full scale appeal, with the enormous costs, inconvenience to the parties and witnesses and delay which this would involve." The decision by the ITF's own committee not to suspend Korda angered his fellow players and many of them gave him the cold shoulder as he sought to defend his title at the Australian Open this week. But James said the case had been beneficial because it had strengthened the ITF's resolve to increase its penalties for serious doping offenders.

"We will definitely be recommending an increase for class one substances from one year to two years," James said.

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Sports

End to an entertaining Super Bowl week

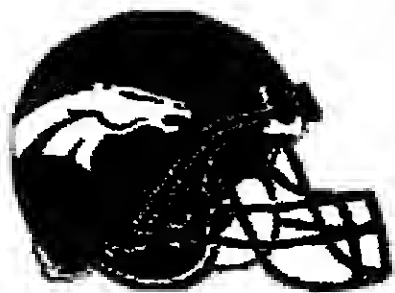
MIAMI (AP) — National Football League coaches rarely pass for standup comedians, particularly at the Super Bowl. Yet Mike Shanahan and Dan Reeves went for a jovial mood Friday as they wrapped up a week of entertaining buildup to Sunday's title game.

Granted, most of the entertainment was provided by the Broncos' Shannon Sharpe and the Falcons' Ray Buchanan. But Shanahan put their dishing match into perspective:

"If you take Shannon Sharpe out of the equation, we have been very quiet," said Shanahan, whose defending champions are seven-point favorites to become the first AFC repeat since the 1980 game. "Now if we didn't have Shannon Sharpe, there would be everybody in this room complaining about there was nothing exciting to write about or talk about."

Reeves talked about long-gone days when he was playing for championships.

"I watched the Ice Bowl game the other day or the other night, actually," Reeves said, referring to the NFL title game in 1967, played in subzero temperatures at Green Bay. "I couldn't sleep. Those stories have gotten so much better through the years. I am a much better player than I was back in 1965. So it's amazing to hear some of the stories."



Commissioner Paul Tagliabue wasn't telling story, but he had plenty to talk about shortly after the coaches finished their monologues.

He discussed the likelihood of instant replay returning to help officials — he almost guaranteed its passage at the March league meetings — and endorsed Lawrence Taylor for the Hall of Fame.

"We, a lot of people in the National Football League, by jumping on the officials ... we got into shooting ourselves in the foot deals," he said, noting that, in general, the quality of officiating "is as good as its ever been."

"I think we will have replay when we come out of the league meeting in March."



Actress and recording star Cher poses for photographers at Miami's Pro Player Stadium during a press conference in Miami Jan. 29. Cher will sing the national anthem prior to the start of the Super Bowl. The defending champion Broncos will play the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl XXXIII Jan. 31 (Reuters photo)

Taylor's off-field problems will derail his entry in Saturday's voting.

qualification."



Omar Brown and Darren Anderson on the inactive list.

"That's one of the things I struggled the most with," Reeves said. "I can't understand why you can't at least have them dress out."

Not dressing for Denver will be Justin Armour, Chris Banks, Cyron Brown and Trey Tague.

They weren't required to do interviews, so Sharpe and Buchanan couldn't insult each other again through the media.

Their trash-talking almost overshadowed some other topics, including the feud involving Reeves and John Elway and Shanahan; the likelihood this will be John Elway's last game; and the novelty of having the Falcons in their first Super Bowl.

Reeves, of course, has been in more of these games than anyone. This will be his ninth, but he's lost all three as a

coach — with the Broncos.

"I don't think there is any question that it would be more gratifying (to win) as a coach," said Reeves, who has overseen a remarkable Atlanta turnaround from 3-13 in 1996, the year before he arrived, to 16-2 this season. "Now maybe I wouldn't say that if I had won my first one, because I can remember how gratifying it was to win that first Super Bowl after struggling and being there so closely (with Dallas)."

"But I think when you go through and have lost three and you feel like you let everybody down, because that is your responsibility as head coach ... it would mean more as a coach than it did when I was a player."

Shanahan was on Reeves' Denver staff for those super flops in the 1987, '89 and '90 games. Now, he's dealing with history.

Before last year's win over the Packers, no AFC team had even won a league title since the 1983 season. Beating Atlanta would stamp these Broncos as one of the NFL's best.

"I thought our guys stepped up and wanted to make themselves special this year by going out and proving that last year wasn't a fluke," Shanahan said. "Character, that is where it starts, in everything we do."

Spanish sharpshooter Castillejo wins WBC title

LEGANES, Spain (R) — Spain's Javier Castillejo hardly lived up to his nickname of El Lince — the Sharpshooter — but did enough to win the World Boxing Council super-welterweight world title on Saturday.

Locally-born Castillejo, 30, fighting in a Madrid industrial suburb, substituted energy for accuracy and took the belt on a split points decision from reigning champion Keith Mullings of the United States.

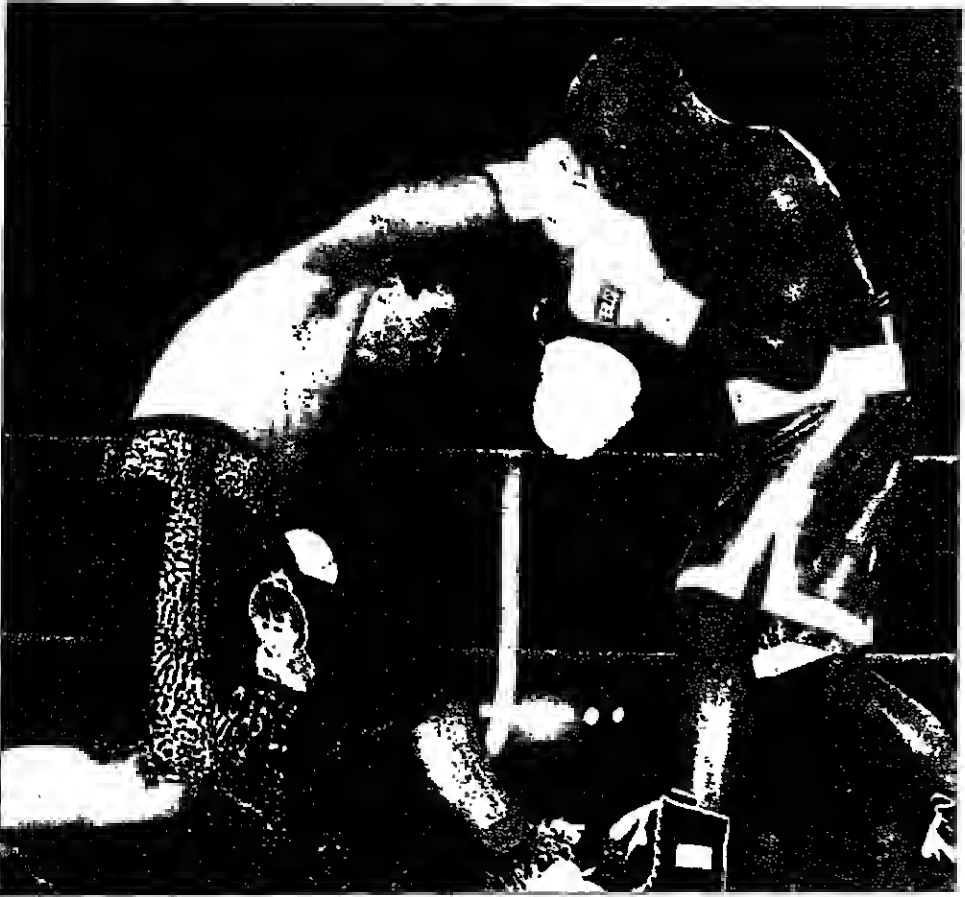
After twelve rounds of entertaining, if not enthralling, boxing the judges' verdict announced as: 114-115, 114-114, 112-116 (Mullings' points listed first).

The result meant that Spain had its first world champion to more than 20 years, Uco Lastra being the last to hold such an accolade before losing the WBC featherweight crown to Eusebio Pedroza in April 1978.

Mullings, who had held the title since December 1997, could hardly complain at the decision despite the close result.

The first two rounds were even but after that Castillejo, who started the fight as the underdog, was always ahead.

Castillejo could possibly have resolved the fight earlier, with



European champion Javier Castillejo from Spain (L) fights against American World Champion Keith Mullings at Madrid January 29. Castillejo scored a point victory over Mullings to win the World Boxing Council light middleweight crown

Mullings looking in trouble during the seventh round, but instead opted for some extravagant showboating.

The Spaniard's antics won him loud cheers from his partisan Spanish supporters, who occupied most of the seating

around the converted bullring, but dismayed the neutrals in the audience.

Castillejo took his career record to 44-4 while Mullings drops to 16-5-1.

The victor's next opponent is undecided but the most likely candidate is

the American fighter Oscar de la Hoya, the undisputed welterweight champion of the world and rated one of the best pound-for-pound boxers around, who will without doubt provide Castillejo with more problems than the dour Mullings.

IOC targets more members in Salt Lake, Sydney

NEW YORK (AP) — More IOC members have been targeted in the Olympics' biggest corruption scandal, which now covers Sydney as well as Salt Lake, the committee's chief investigator said Friday.

IOC vice president Dick Pound said an "indefinite number" of names from the 106 committee members have been added to the inquiry since its initial report on the Salt Lake City case was released Sunday.

Pound refused to identify the recent additions to an investigation that already has led to the expulsion or resignation of nine members, the biggest purge in the IOC's 105 years.

But he said fresh information from the ethics commission investigating Salt Lake's successful bid for the 2002 Winter Games, and news involving Sydney's winning bid for the 2000 Summer Games, led to the latest steps.

"We are looking at some of the other members and not just based on information coming out of the Salt Lake City investigation," Pound said. "It's an indefinite number and an indefinite line to follow. We will go where the trail leads us."

The Pound commission found that 14 IOC members, including one who has since died, took almost \$800,000 in cash, travel and medical expenses, lavish gifts and services from the Salt Lake bid committee.

Besides the resignations and expulsions announced Sunday, the IOC said three members remained under investigation and a fourth member was warned.

As Pound's group was finishing its "first sweep" of Salt Lake, word came that the head of the Australian Olympic Committee promised \$70,000 to two African IOC members the night before Sydney won the 2000 Games by two votes over Beijing.

One of those members, Charles Mukora of Kenya, also was implicated in the Salt Lake case and has resigned. The other member was identified as Francis

Nyangweso of Uganda.

Pound said it was "safe to assume" his commission was now looking at member involvement with the Sydney bid.

He also expects to look at the failed 1996 bid of Toronto, where officials said Thursday they spent more than \$150,000 to cover the cost of IOC members breaking or stretching rules.

"I would imagine that they would now come forward with names and details," Pound said.

And he said the IOC investigation of Salt Lake remained open, based on a full review of reports from the independent Utah ethics panel.

Pound said he had no information on Austin Sealey, an IOC member from Barbados who was identified in Friday's Washington Post as a possible recipient of money from Salt Lake that was not evident in initial reviews.

The Salt Lake Tribune, meanwhile, said investigators had subpoenaed University of Utah records of Bold Magvan, a son of IOC member Shagdaryav Magvan of Mongolia.

In Paris, Jean-Claude Gangs of the Republic of Congo said he had 40 members who would vote to reinstate him to the IOC at a special assembly in March. Pound said such a reversal probably would force the ruling executive board, of which he is a member, to resign.

"That would be a serious point of non-confidence," Pound said. He said he would be "very surprised" if the expulsions were overturned.

When he announced the expulsions, IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch said all bid cities from the 1996 Games onward would be asked to identify members who acted improperly in the bidding.

Pound said those letters were to be mailed from IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Friday, with a Feb. 16 deadline to reply, about two weeks later than originally intended but still in time for the investigations to be

finished by the special session March 17-18.

And in another of the six investigations of Olympic hiding around the world, the U.S. Olympic Committee said the report of its special inquiry on Salt Lake, led by former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, would be released March 1.

In other developments: —USA Today said Ganga and former Salt Lake Olympics chief Tom Welch shared a bank account. Welch's lawyer, Tom Schaffer, said Welch's name was on the account so he could get funds for Ganga if Ganga was out of the country. Welch, the lawyer added, never made a deposit or withdrawal from the account.

—Ganga told the French newspaper Liberation that Samaranch was sacrificing friends in the scandal to try to clear his own name.

—Samaranch resigned as president of La Caixa, Spain's fourth-largest bank. The 78-year-old IOC president said he was leaving because of his age, not the scandal.

—Sergio Santander, expelled from the IOC in the Salt Lake case, was suspended as president of the Chilean Olympic Committee.

—Two proprietors of a defunct Salt Lake escort service told the Tribune their escorts entertained IOC members at hotels during visits in 1995. They did not say who paid for the escorts.

—A Browning rifle given to Samaranch by Salt Lake organizers is worth much more than the \$171 listed. KTVX in Salt Lake reported, Leon Burrows, who designed the gun's engraving, told the TV station the gun could sell for up to \$25,000.

—The Olympics' top TV organizer, Manolo Romero, reportedly was paid \$1.5 million for his services during the 1992 Barcelona Games. Spanish sports authorities defended Barcelona's finances against the report in the newspaper El Mundo.

Bordeaux give Marseille footballing lesson

PARIS (R) — Girondins Bordeaux lived up to their reputation as the best footballing side in France with a stunning 4-1 demolition of Olympique Marseille.

Bordeaux scored four goals in the opening half hour to settle the issue early in Friday night's top-of-the-table clash at their Parc Lescure World Cup stadium.

The two teams are now equal on points in the French league title race with Bordeaux ahead on goal difference.

Bordeaux, knowing they needed victory more than Marseille, said before the match they wanted above all to play well and enjoy it. And they achieved just that.

"My team did what they set out to do," coach Elie Baup said. "This quality of play meant little went to waste and there were four goals to boot. To succeed in this way against Marseille, who are a great team, is even more convincing."

which had conceded only 13 goals in their previous 21 matches, was found wanting for speed.

The Bordeaux attack, including joint first division top scorers Sylvain Wiltord and Lilian Laslandes, made light of Marseille's midfield buffer and hit them with quick, thrusting passes and constant changes of approach.

With former Bordeaux, Monaco and Sheffield Wednesday defender Patrick Blondeau unavailable through injury, Marseille coach Roland Courbis switched William Gallas to right back, leaving the left flank of defence exposed.

Courbis thought that, facing a two-pronged attack, three men at the back would be enough. But Marseille fell prey to Benarbia's superb exploitation of the spaces behind left-sided midfielder Peter Luccin.

Former Bordeaux midfielder Luccin was injured and substituted midway through first half with a right back, Hamada Jambay, coming on and the defence regrouping. By then, though, Marseille were three goals down.

"Luccin's injury posed a big problem for us," Courbis said. "He had an important role to play, at the same time half defender, half midfielder." Marseille captain Laurent Blanc summed up a sorry night for his side by saying: "We've got to admit that Bordeaux were

Coach of Kuwait's national team resigns

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait's football coach, Milan Macalla, who guided the national team to two successive Gulf Cups and a second place in the Asian Games, has resigned citing family reasons, newspapers reported Saturday.

The Czech national said he needed "several months in his country and to remain with his family after 17 years of foreign coaching work," the Arab Times said.

Macalla arrived in Kuwait in 1993 as coach of local club side Kazma, which he guided to several cup and league titles before being hired by the Kuwait Football Association to rebuild the national side.

Macalla won two successive Gulf Cups — contested by Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — over the last four years.

He was in charge of Kuwait's team which were runners-up at the Asian Games in December, losing to World Cup finalists Iran.

The achievement saw Kuwait, where the national league is organised on an amateur basis, attain their highest-ever world ranking, 25th, by the International Football Federation (IFFA).

Schmitt, whose popularity in Germany drew the huge crowd, leaped to the day's best combined jumps of 132 and 131 metres but it wasn't enough for the Germans who finished third behind Japan and Austria.

Japan's foursome of Kazuya Yoshioka, Hideharu Miyahira, Noriaki Kasai and Kazuyoshi Funaki handily won the team event with 976.5 points — the country's



Ferrari's German driver Michael Schumacher presents the new Formula One F399 Ferrari at the company headquarters at Maranello, central Italy Jan. 30. The F399 will participate at the upcoming F1 world championships (Reuters photo)

Japan wins Ski Jumping Team World Cup but Schmitt stars

WILLINGEN, Germany (AP) — Olympic champion Japan captured a Ski Jumping Team World Cup competition Saturday, but Martin Schmitt stole the show in front of 40,000 spectators.

Schmitt, whose popularity in Germany drew the huge crowd, leaped to the day's best combined jumps of 132 and 131 metres but it wasn't enough for the Germans who finished third behind Japan and Austria.

Japan's foursome of Kazuya Yoshioka, Hideharu Miyahira, Noriaki Kasai and Kazuyoshi Funaki handily won the team event with 976.5 points — the country's

events ever held.

Austria's team of Reinhard Schwarzenberger, Wolfgang Loitzl, Stefan Horngacher and Andreas Widhoelz finished second with 903.8 points on their combined jumps.

But the presence of Schmitt, who has burst out of nowhere this season to become a top jumper, led to trains being delayed and traffic jams as the huge crowd tried to reach the slope.

Germany settled for third at 896.9 points with Schmitt, Sven Hannawald, Dieter Thoma and Hansjoerg Jaekle. Norway was a distance fourth at 813.3 points, edging Finland at 805.5 while 4.

Norway's 813.3, 5. Finland 805.5. Hannawald may have cost the Germans second when he unleashed a leap of 131.5 metres, but lost costly points by dropping a hand into the snow to prevent a spill on his landing.

Organisers are expecting 50,000 fans to attend Sunday's second singles. Kasai edged

Security Council meets to evaluate Iraq policy

Russia demands dismissal of Butler

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Security Council members met in a special Saturday session to resolve one last sticking point blocking agreement on a review of all aspects of Iraq's ties with the United Nations.

The United States and Russia disagreed on the role of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) and how it should participate on experts panels that would assess and possibly make recommendations on future policy.

Russia wants UNSCOM abolished and its executive chairman Richard Butler fired immediately, although Moscow says the commission's experts can provide information to the panels.

U.N. officials advocate an official role for the commission.

Russian Ambassador Sergei Lavrov said the two sides were close, but the issue had still not been resolved as council members met in small groups behind closed doors.

Council President Celso Amorim of Brazil said "We are hopeful to approve a text

during this weekend," implying there might be a Sunday meeting also.

He called the session in what he said was an effort to put the two delegations under pressure before Canada assumes the council presidency on Monday.

Most nations on the council are generally supportive of the panels as a first procedural step toward working out a new policy toward Iraq following the mid-December U.S.-British air strikes and Baghdad's banning of all weapons inspections.

Canada has devised the plan, whose purpose is to get discussions moving on Iraq rather than conclude a new policy on the future of arms inspections or sanctions. Any agreement by the sharply-divided council would be the first since the air strikes against Baghdad.

The Canadian proposal includes three panels to assess disarmament, the condition of the Iraqi people living under sanctions and an accounting of missing Kuwaitis and others during Iraq's occupation of the emirate it invaded in August

1990.

The most controversial panel is one composed of UNSCOM, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other disarmament organisations which Russia eventually wants to put in place of the commission it accused of bias and lack of professionalism.

Lavrov wanted the proposal to talk about the "experience and expertise" of the commission while the United States advocated "participation" of UNSCOM.

The United States and most council members have endorsed the Canadian proposal, with U.S. representative Peter Burleigh saying "there is a deep division on the council and going to the longer-term questions now is not useful."

So far Washington has not made any long-term proposals in the council on Iraq. Instead it is concentrating on how to remove President Saddam Hussein from power and on the almost-daily, cat-and-mouse engagements over air exclusion zones in Iraq.



PROTESTERS SAY NO TO WTO: Demonstrators hold a banner which reads 'The WTO (World Trade Organisation) kills people' during a march Saturday by approximately 100 protesters through Davos, Switzerland, where the World Economic Forum is taking place (AP photo)

U.S. envoys tour Gulf on Iraq mission

MANAMA (AFP) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk met Bahrain's emir here Saturday at the start of a Gulf tour to brief the region on Washington's efforts to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"I had the opportunity to explain to the emir [Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa] ... our approach which is based on three pillars," Indyk told reporters before flying off to Qatar.

He said they were to restore consensus in the U.N. Security Council, to expand the U.N. humanitarian programme for Iraq, and work for a change of government in Baghdad.

"The third pillar of our approach is a new pillar which is to seek a change in the regime in Iraq by sup-

porting the aspirations of the Iraqi people for a better existence under a more representative government," said Indyk.

He defended the U.S. and British enforcement of "no-fly zones" in both northern and southern Iraq that has sparked a series of U.S. air strikes since December.

The aim was to contain Saddam and "restrict his ability to threaten his people," said Indyk, who is assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs.

Bahrain, which is currently a non-permanent member of the Security Council and also serves as Gulf base of the U.S. Fifth Fleet, on Friday joined Malaysian criticism at the United Nations of the exclusion zones.

The zones had been "arbitrarily" imposed and "run counter to the U.N. charter," charged Malaysia.

On the heels of a visit to Saudi Arabia by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Indyk was due in Kuwait on Sunday along with Frank Riocardone, newly-named U.S. special representative for transition of Iraq.

"They will hold talks with senior Kuwaiti officials on Iraq, the Middle East peace process and other issues of bilateral concern," said a U.S. embassy spokesman in Kuwait City.

Kuwait's leading newspaper, Al Qabas, said the United States was aiming to set up five camps near Iraq's borders to train some 10,000 opposition fighters

as part of a united "Iraqi Liberation Army."

But Indyk steered clear of the report. "I haven't seen the report but it doesn't sound like anything that we have talked about with the governments here," he told AFP.

Indyk said the overthrow of Saddam was "a complex and difficult task, and therefore we are not operating on the assumption that it is going to happen quickly, although it will be nice if it did."

In Qatar, meanwhile, Fifth Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Charles Moore met Crown Prince Jasssem Bin Hamad Al Thani on Saturday for talks on boosting military cooperation, the official Qatari news agency QNA reported.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Assad meets Archbishop of Canterbury

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria's President Hafez Al Assad met the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, on Saturday for talks on the Middle East peace process and growing tension in the area, presidential spokesman Jibril Kourieh said. Kourieh said Carey led an Anglican church delegation to the talks which were attended by British ambassador to Damascus Basil Eastwood and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara'a. Carey leaves on Sunday for Lebanon after a four-day official visit to Syria.

German woman released in Yemen

SANAA (AFP) — Yemeni tribesmen have released a German woman they kidnapped on Tuesday, a spokesman for the Yemeni security services said Saturday. She was released on Friday, the spokesman said. The tribesmen had earlier set free her Yemeni husband, three children and brother-in-law. The woman's German mother and brother were still being detained. The group was abducted Tuesday night in northern Yemen and taken to the Barat region, 180 kilometres from the capital Sanaa, sources in the security services said. The woman, a midwife working in Yemen, was released so she could carry the kidnappers' demands to the authorities, the spokesman said. At first, she was under orders to return to them, but the tribesmen later told the German embassy that she could remain free, he added.

Kurd party vows successor if closed

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's main Kurdish party said on Saturday a similar party would emerge if the Constitutional Court ordered its ban. Chief Prosecutor Vural Savas on Friday presented the court with a 56-page indictment against HADEP accusing it of acting as a recruiting centre for separatist Kurdish rebels. "This is a political case, not a legal one," HADEP Deputy Chairman Osman Ozcelik told a news conference. "HADEP [The People's Democracy Party] is not despairing and nor are its voters. If it is closed, there are enough people and ideas to establish 10 HADEP's in its place," he said. A statement by Savas said there was an organic link between HADEP and Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels who are fighting for self-rule in the mainly Kurdish southeast. HADEP advocates a negotiated settlement of the conflict.

Turkish troops kill 11 Kurd rebels

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Turkish troops killed 11 Kurdish guerrillas in clashes in the southeast of the country, security officials said on Saturday. A statement from the emergency rule governor's office said soldiers fought with Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels on Friday night in Sirmak province. More than 29,000 people have died in 14 years of conflict between the Turkish armed forces and the PKK, which is fighting for self-rule in the mainly Kurdish southeast.

Double suicide after child's murder

MUSCAT (AFP) — An Indian couple in Oman committed suicide after strangling their three-and-a-half-year-old child, police said Saturday. The police, quoted by the official news agency ONA, said the child's body was found with his hands tied on the bed of his family's home in Seeb province, near the capital. The mother and father hanged themselves from a ventilator and a suicide note was found, police added, without giving details of the family tragedy on Tuesday.

'Eighty killed in dispute in Sudan'

KHARTOUM (R) — More than 80 people were killed and 36 injured this month in clashes between nomads and farmers over grazing rights in Sudan, a Khartoum newspaper said on Saturday. The private Al Rai Al Aam daily quoted a local villager and security officials as saying the clashes near the town of Gencina, some 1,000 kms west of Khartoum, were brought under control on Jan. 19.

Iranian, Egyptian FM's meet in Davos

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi has held talks with his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported Saturday. The two ministers in their talks on Friday discussed various issues, including the latest developments in Iraq, Israel and disarmament, it said, without giving details. They decided that the two Muslim countries will boost cooperation at international forums and revise a treaty on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the year 2000.

Palestinians ready for trilateral Washington meeting

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian cabinet Saturday reaffirmed its agreement to attend three-way talks with Israel and the United States in Washington early next month despite Israeli resistance to the meeting.

"We have accepted the American initiative to go to a trilateral meeting in Washington" aimed at ending the deadlock in implementation of the Wye River peace accord, said chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

"We will accept what the American administration will say, because we have implemented all our obligations and commitments," he added.

Israel has told the United States that it will not attend such a meeting because of what it claims are Palestinian violations of the Wye River land-for-security agreement.

The Israelis have said that they are not against the idea of a three-way meeting, but that the time is not right.

U.S. spokesmen have said that such an initiative was on the table, but that no formal invitations had been issued for the talks.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to carry out promised troop withdrawals from the West Bank required by the October agreement, citing what he says are Palestinian failures to honour their promises to crack down on anti-Israel activities in areas already under its control.

Deep divisions over Netanyahu's handling of the peace process led parliament last month to call early elections for May and early June and the campaign has further dampened hopes for progress.

'Algeria rebels kill seven soldiers'

ALGIERS (R) — Seven Algerian soldiers died when a band of Islamists sprayed a military convoy with machine-gun fire in an ambush, a local newspaper said Saturday.

About 100 rebels, hiding on both sides of the road, attacked the convoy near a forest in the Relizane area, 260 kilometres west of Algiers, La Tribune daily said.

The guerrillas then snatched weapons and uniforms from the soldiers, seven of whom were wounded, and fled into nearby woodland, it said.

Le Quotidien d'Oran, carrying a report on Wednesday's ambush, said the rebels were members of the Armed Islamic Group, Algeria's most radical Islamist guerrillas.

The ambush was the latest in a series of attacks on troops in the past 14 months in which more than 50 soldiers have been killed.

At least 16 soldiers were killed and 11 wounded in two ambushes two weeks ago in the Tizi-Ouzou area, 90 kilometres east of Algiers, and in the Tiaret region, 230 kilometres southwest of the capital.

There was no immediate confirmation from the

authorities, who are tight-tipped on casualties among government forces.

In another incident, government security forces said on Saturday Islamists slashed the throats of five people overnight in a hamlet in western Algeria. The killings took place in Bekharria village in Chlef province, 160 kilometres west of Algiers, the security forces said in a statement carried by the official Algerian news agency APS.

Chlef province is one of the main hotbeds of violence in Algeria. At least 50 villagers were killed in a rebel raid in December there.

Liberte newspaper said on Saturday that troops killed 15 rebels on Friday in Tiaret. The rebels were suspected of killing seven soldiers in an ambush in Tiaret two weeks ago, it said.

Algeria has been racked by violence since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

More than 65,000 people — civilians, rebels and troops — have been killed in the seven past years, according to Western estimates.

Israeli 'spies' could get up to three years in jail in Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — Two Israelis whose spying charges were replaced by less serious counts in a plea bargain deal could be looking at two to three years in prison, a Cypriot legal source said Saturday.

But even a custodial sentence for Udi Hargov and Igal Damary may not entirely dismiss suspicions that Cyprus struck the deal under outside pressure. Opposition politicians have accused the government of humiliating the country as a result of the deal.

Attorney General Alecos Markides, however, insists that dropping the spying and conspiracy charges, under which each of the two could have gotten a maximum of 10 years in jail, had nothing to do with outside interference.

"I believe under the circumstances that our side moved correctly and it was done in the public interest. It's a satisfactory result," he said.

But Markides appeared to contradict his own version when he disclosed that his Israeli counterpart, Elyakim Rubinstein, had been to Cyprus twice since the Nov. 6 arrest of the two men to discuss the case.

He also said that President Glafcos Clerides and Foreign

Minister Yiannakis Cassoulides had been approached about the case by the Israeli government, several U.S. senators and a cabinet minister from a European Union country that he did not name.

Hargov, 37, and Damary, 49, had the conspiracy and spying charges against them dropped on Friday. In return, they changed their plea to guilty on a charge of illegal possession of telecommunications equipment and entered the same plea to a new charge of approaching a restricted area. They are to appear in court on Monday for sentencing.

The first charge carries a maximum penalty of one year imprisonment, while the second a maximum sentence of six years in jail.

"The two can realistically expect to be jailed for two or maybe three years," said the legal source who is close to the case. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

He said he partly based his prediction of a custodial sentence on the grounds that the defence had produced nothing to prove that they were indeed on the island not to spy.

Beggar turns out to be wealthy landlady

CAIRO (AFP) — An old woman in her 80s, arrested while begging in central Cairo, turned out not to be as poor as she appeared, a court discovered on Saturday. Zeinab Madbouli, 81, told police she was forced to beg to feed herself, but when asked to empty her pockets, among items that fell out was a contract showing her to be the owner of a block of flats. No longer able to sustain her story, she admitted owning two more buildings in working class districts of the capital, acquired over a lifetime of begging in the streets. The court put her wealth at some \$100,000.

Women protest ambassador's chic cheek

WELLINGTON (AFP) — It's not the first time a group of New Zealanders has protested in outrage at the French. But unlike previous groups which have protested against the now-ceased French nuclear testing in the Pacific, some 20 angry women on the streets of Wellington on Friday were protesting against something more personal — differences on dress sense. Departing French Ambassador Jacques Le Blanc has aroused the ire of the capital's women by slamming their fashion sense, telling the Wellington Dominion newspaper Friday they dressed "like soldiers" and gave "the impression of wanting to look like men."

Prison turned hotel now cosy and hospitable

LUCERNE (AFP) — A one-time prison in the central Swiss town of Lucerne has been converted into a bargain hotel and cultural centre, and will open its doors April 1, the Swiss news agency ATS said. The 160-bed hotel, whose decor theme is, not surprisingly, "bare and bars," will offer competitive prices, charging \$14.25 for the cheapest room, according to ATS. The new hotel, called Loewengraben (The Lions' Den), is targeting a young and budget clientele, a market that has remained largely untapped in touristy, and pricey, Lucerne.

Instructions for a Millennium baby

WELLINGTON (R) — Couples seeking the ultimate status symbol of a baby born at the dawn of the year 2000 should seek to conceive on April 9, a New Zealand newspaper reported. That matches up with the length of a human pregnancy, Richard Fisher, co-author of the book "Making Babies," told the Manukau Evening News. However, he acknowledged the chance of having one of the first babies born in the year 2000 was only around six per cent, even if the April date was acted upon. But Fisher had a tip to help improve the chances — plenty of sex beforehand for the father.

Poets take to the confessional

LONDON (R) — Like sinners consulting a priest, aspiring British poets are being given a chance to take to the confessional to see if their odes are any good. Professional poet Ian Duhig is to man the confessional-style booth at poetry workshops being staged in northern England. "A lot of people are embarrassed about their poetry," said Robert Walters of Bradford Libraries Service, who came up with the idea. "Half an hour of a professional poet's time, in confidence, seemed a good offer to make to people who normally only read to families and friends," he told Saturday's Daily Telegraph.

Yemen court hears call for media ban in trial of bomb suspects

ADEN (AFP) — The prosecution called Saturday for a media ban on the second day of the trial of five British Muslims and an Algerian accused of plotting a New Year's Eve bombing campaign in this southern Yemeni city.

Two policemen, meanwhile, told the court in Aden that explosives and arms were found in a car rented by the suspects, a charge denied by Malik Harhara and Mohsin Ghailan, two of the Britons.

The prosecutor's office urged the judge to impose a media ban because of what it called "false reports that could influence the course of justice."

The judge, without issuing a decision, called for journalists "to respect the truth." But the media were pre-

vented from taking photos or using satellite telephones after the hearing was adjourned until Monday.

In London, a European human rights organisation voiced concern over the request to hold the trial in camera and called for a one-month adjournment to give the defence enough time to prepare its case.

"We are monitoring the situation very closely," Stephen Jakobi, director of Fair Trials Abroad, told AFP.

The prosecution applied to have the whole trial held in camera because of misreporting by the press. What are we witnessing is what amounts to a determination not to hold a fair trial," charged Jakobi.

"Either they adjourn for a month,

and start again, preferably with a different judge, or the whole thing is a judicial farce."

The policemen in court said the guns were found in a car stopped on the road between Aden and Abyan, a neighbouring region in south Yemen. A third witness said he had rented the car to Harhara and Ghailan.

They stopped the car because it was driving on the wrong side of the road, the policemen said.

The suspects drove off at high speed, raising suspicion, after showing the rental agreement. The policemen said they gave chase and found the car abandoned, with the arms left behind.

On Wednesday, the first day of the trial, three more Britons were arrested

and accused of involvement in the same plot.

British consular officials have not been granted access to the new suspects, who did not appear in court, but they have been allowed to attend the hearings.

A defence lawyer, Badr Basunaid, walked out after protesting to the judge that a doctor from Britain had not yet been allowed to see the defendants despite the court's authorisation on Wednesday.

Saddaf Alam from Manchester has warned that two of the suspects, Samad Ahmad and Ghulam Hussein, have serious medical histories and need treatment.